

# express

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## Wednesday



Iran took a major step in its space program Tuesday.

**Unfriendly Skies:** Iran launches its first satellite | **6**

**Costly Idea:** Wells Fargo to rethink posh Vegas junkets | **10**



**Priceless?**  
Ramirez waits for big bucks in free agency | **13**

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### Folks for Folk

**Folk:** The masses get behind *Fleet Foxes'* unusual, pastoral sound. Plus, Ben Kweller tours in support of a new album.

>> **17-22**



President admits he 'screwed up' as Daschle, Killefer pull out

**WASHINGTON** | President Obama on Tuesday gave up his nomination fight for Tom Daschle and a second high-profile appointee who failed to pay all their taxes, fearing ugly confirmation battles that would undercut his claims to ethical high ground and cripple his presidency in just its second week. "I screwed up," he declared.

"It's important for this administration to send a message that there aren't two sets of rules — you know, one for prominent people

and one for ordinary folks who have to pay their taxes," Obama said in an interview on NBC's "Nightly News With Brian Williams." "I'm frustrated with myself, with our team. ... I'm here on television saying I screwed up."

The White House announced that Daschle had asked to be removed from consideration as Health and Human Services secretary and that Nancy Killefer had made the same request concerning what was to be her groundbreaking appointment as chief per-

formance officer to make the entire government run better.

Daschle said in a brief letter to Obama that he refused to "be a distraction" from the new president's drive for health care reform. Obama said neither he nor Daschle excused the former senator's tax errors but that he accepted his friend's decision "with sadness and regret."

JENNIFER LOVEN (AP)

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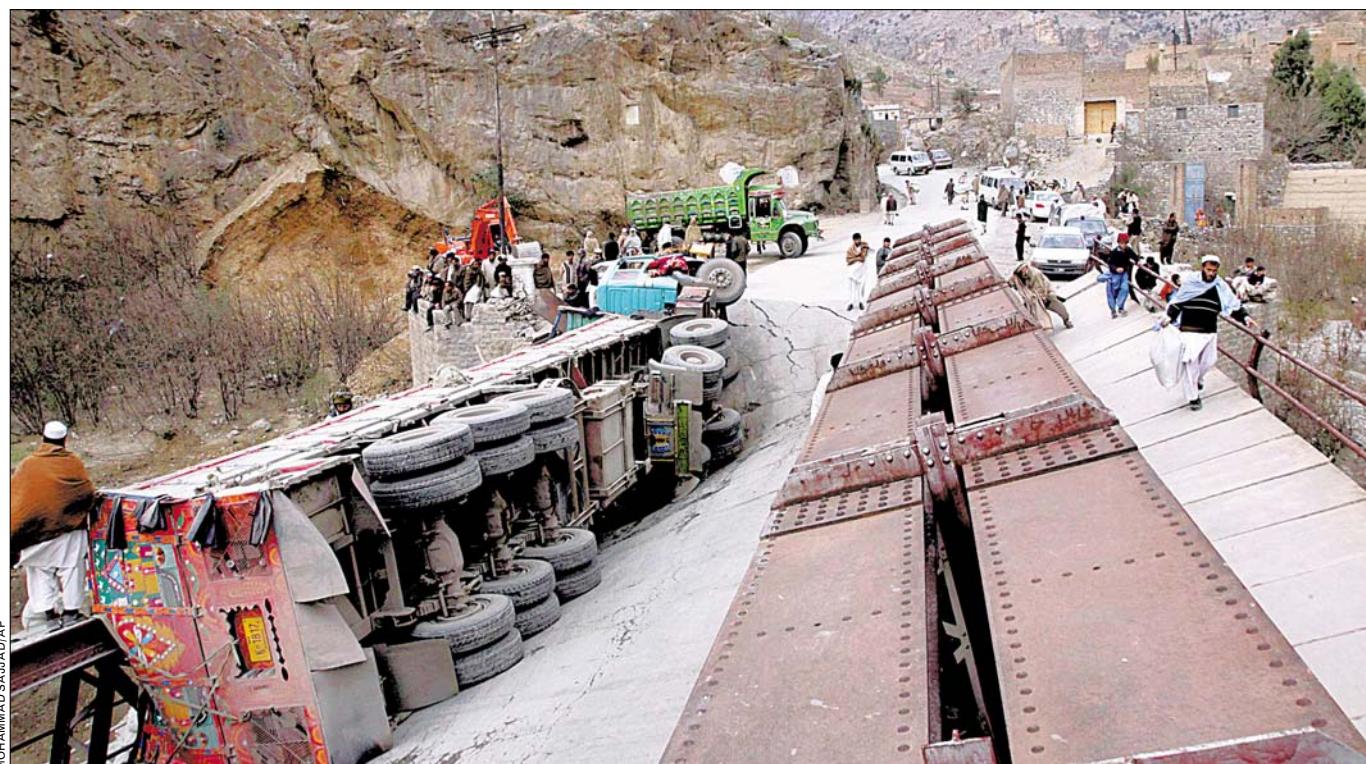


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## Pakistan Blast Targets U.S. Supply Route



**LEVELED:** A truck lies on its side on a bridge destroyed by Islamic militants along the Khyber Pass in Pakistan on Tuesday. The blast on the bridge, used to transport supplies to U.S. troops in Afghanistan, was the latest salvo against U.S.-led forces. ♦ **Squeezed:** U.S. seeks fresh supply routes | **Page 6**

## Tax Errors Sink Obama Picks



Daschle

formance officer to make the entire government run better.

Daschle said in a brief letter to Obama that he refused to "be a distraction" from the new president's drive for health care reform. Obama said neither he nor Daschle excused the former senator's tax errors but that he accepted his friend's decision "with sadness and regret."



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WEDNESDAY  
**35° 17°**



THURSDAY  
**27° 25°**



FRIDAY  
**48° 34°**

**TODAY:** Partly sunny and chilly; turning bitterly cold in the evening | **34**

# eyeOpeners

## FUGITIVES

**Snakes on the Lam**

It's pretty difficult for a 23-foot-long, 130-pound python to hide. The orange reticulated python, the world's longest snake species, and a second python, measuring 13 feet long, escaped from a terrarium in their owner's home in San Luis Obispo, Calif., on Sunday night. Police warned residents that the snakes were large enough to make meals of young children or pets, but both had been captured by Monday afternoon. The 23-footer was found basking in the sun in a backyard several blocks away. The smaller python was spotted under the owner's porch. No injuries were reported. Police said the snakes' owner will not be cited. "There is no leash law for snakes," said police Sgt. Kurt Hixenbaugh. (AP)



## CRIME

**Superman's Younger Brother Has Complex**

A man wearing a sleeping bag as a cape and carrying a screwdriver as a weapon tried to rob someone in the parking lot of a Gainesville, Fla., business. Police said a 46-year-old man

approached the intended victim early Sunday morning and asked for money. When the man refused, police said the man threw off the cape and pulled the screwdriver from his waistband. The other man quickly ran into a store and called 911. The suspect was arrested a few blocks away and charged with attempted armed robbery. (AP)



## DISROBING

**Nude Awakening**

Two German tourists have been detained for taking their clothes off in the lobby of a Brazilian airport, authori-

ties said Tuesday. The two men allegedly changed their clothes in front of other passengers at the Salvador-area airport while awaiting a flight back to Germany on Monday, authorities said. Police inspector Maritta Souza said

## COMPETITIONS

**Quack And Field**

When it's too cold for humans to race, the ducks come out to play. The annual Quack-Off, held each winter in Avoca, Neb., pits local ducks against each other in a race to the finish line across a frozen pond. Flying is strictly against the rules, and participants need not own a duck — they can rent one to be part of this historic event. Here, Brandy Urbane and her duck, Momma Donna, celebrate their win last week.

(EXPRESS)

**Are You Feeling Sad or Depressed?**

If so, you may be interested in participating in research involving brain imaging at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. The National Institute of Mental Health is interested in learning more about the brain in people who are currently depressed with bipolar disorder.

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05-M-0169 & 03-M-0001

**Feeling Sad or Depressed?**

**The National Institute of Mental Health**

National Institutes of Health, Department of Health & Human Services



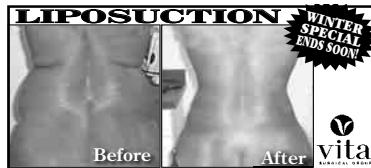
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61

The percentage of Americans who say they don't keep a rubber mat in their shower, according to a Consumer Reports survey on risky behavior. Nearly four in 10 adults admitted eating raw cookie dough, which can carry salmonella.

Nation

## In Brief



Ty Inc. took heat for giving these dolls the same names as the Obama children.

OAK BROOK, ILL.

### Toy Company Renames Its 'Sasha,' 'Malia' Dolls

The toy company that makes the popular Beanie Babies is retiring the names "Marvelous Malia" and "Sweet Sasha" from its Ty Girlz collection. CEO Ty Warner of Ty Inc. said in a statement Tuesday that the dolls have been renamed "Marvelous Mariah" and "Sweet Sydney." Warner said Ty is changing the monikers in deference to the Obama family after first lady Michelle Obama said using her daughters' names was inappropriate. (AP)

WASHINGTON

### Congress Adds Tax Break For Car Buyers to Stimulus

The Senate voted Tuesday to give a tax break to new-car buyers, setting aside bipartisan concerns over the size of the economic stimulus bill. The vote was 71-26 to attach a provision to the stimulus plan to let many car buyers claim an income tax deduction for the cost of automobile sales taxes and interest payments on car loans. (AP)

# Facing Setback, Obama Cuts Losses

New administration can't escape familiar Washington problem

WASHINGTON | Two weeks into his presidency, Barack Obama proved that even a clearly gifted politician cannot escape the gravitational pull of Washington forces that have humbled many of his predecessors.

Former senator Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination for Health and Human Services secretary on Tuesday after revelations he failed to pay thousands of dollars in taxes.

"I screwed up," Obama said repeatedly during a series of TV interviews Tuesday. "I take responsibility for this mistake."

It was a frank admission from an Oval Office where "mistakes were made" has often been the preferred dodge.

An old story, with new actors, played out Tuesday: A new president's team imperfectly vetted top



Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination to be secretary of Health and Human Services on Tuesday, dealing the first political setback to the Obama administration.

nominees. The nominees, it turns out, had not paid taxes for household help or other services. The media and political adversaries bored in. And rather than spend time and political capital defending the appointees, the administration

dropped them and moved on.

In other words, Obama may be a little more ordinary than some admirers would like to admit. On Tuesday, at least, he seemed to be trying to learn from their mistakes to cut his losses.

Former president Bill Clinton stuck with Zoe Baird, his pick for attorney general, for about 10 days

**An old story played out with new actors in Washington on Tuesday.**

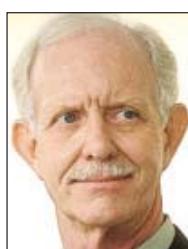
after it was disclosed that she had hired illegal immigrants as workers and had failed to pay their Social Security taxes.

It was a painful start for a new presidency that Obama and his aides have studied closely.

In his inaugural address, Obama said: "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

The same words applied Tuesday to his administration, a feeling Clinton and other past presidents could appreciate. CHARLES BABINGTON (AP)

### HEARSAY | MIRACLE LANDING



"It was very quiet as we worked, my co-pilot and I. We were a team. But to have zero thrust coming out of those engines was shocking."

—PILOT CHESLEY "SULLY" SULLENBERGER, DESCRIBING WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO LAND A US AIRWAYS JET SAFELY IN THE HUDSON RIVER. SULLENBERGER SAID THE ORDEAL WAS "SURREAL."

### N.M. Man Arrested in Letters Case

DALLAS | A man apparently upset about losing more than \$60,000 in a bank failure has been arrested on charges of mailing threatening letters containing suspicious powder to banks and federal offices, authorities said Tuesday.

Richard Leon Goyette, 47, was arrested at the Albuquerque, N.M.,

airport Monday. He is charged with a single count of knowingly and intentionally conveying false and misleading information.

Goyette is accused of mailing 65 threatening letters to financial institutions and federal regulatory offices in 11 states and the District of Columbia. (AP)

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## Nation



**CAKE SUBSTITUTE:** A dedicated jogger celebrated his 30th birthday Tuesday in Brooklyn Center, Minn., by running on a treadmill at an athletic center for 24 hours straight.

# N.H. Senate Pick Named

Republican to replace  
commerce secretary  
choice Judd Gregg

CONCORD, N.H. | Democratic Gov. John Lynch has introduced his pick to replace Sen. Judd Gregg in the U.S. Senate — businesswoman

and former government official Bonnie Newman.

Newman is a Republican, but Lynch confirmed at a news conference Tuesday that she has agreed to serve only the remaining two years of Gregg's six-year Senate term. Gregg's departure should make the seat more competitive next year for Democrats.

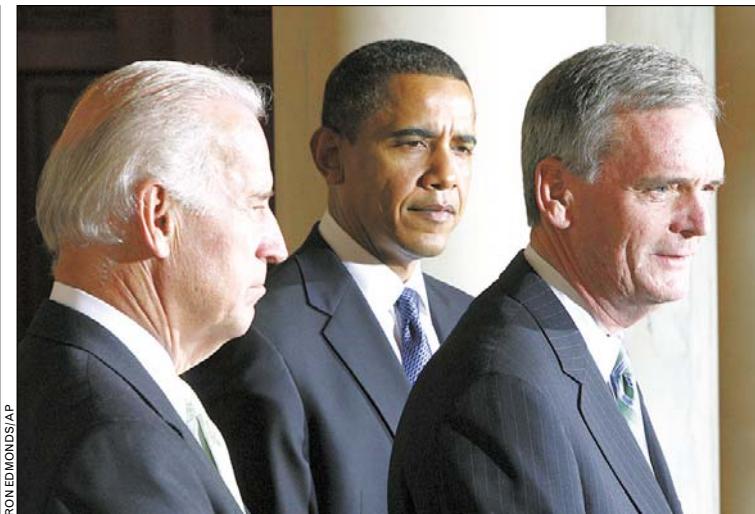
President Obama nominated Gregg Tuesday morning to be U.S. commerce secretary. Gregg had indicated he would take it only if the balance of power in the Senate didn't change. Having New-

## MySpace: 90K Sex Offenders Pulled From Site

RALEIGH, N.C. | MySpace says about 90,000 sex offenders have been identified and removed from its huge social networking Web site.

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper said Tuesday the new figure is nearly double what MySpace officials originally announced last year. Cooper and Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal have led efforts to make social networking Web sites safer. Last year, the attorneys general persuaded MySpace and Facebook to implement dozens of safeguards to protect young users. (AP)

**BY THE NUMBERS:**  
About 55 percent of  
people in a survey con-  
ducted last month said  
the only way to succeed in America is  
to obtain a college degree. (AP)



Vice President Joe Biden and President Obama listen to Commerce Secretary-designate Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., during a ceremony at the White House.

man replace him would fulfill that condition.

But Lynch, who said he has known Newman for 40 years, said that didn't drive his choice.

"Bonnie is someone I would have considered regardless of party," he said.

Newman, 63, was Gregg's chief

of staff in the 1980s and has held prominent leadership positions in government, higher education and the private sector. She has never held elective office.

Newman described herself as a "reasonable Republican who some might call a moderate Republican." (AP)

# White-Nose Syndrome Kills Bats in 6 States

Rapid population drop  
seen as scientists seek  
ways to curb disease

ROSENDALE, N.Y. | Deadly white-nose syndrome is striking more bats over a larger area this winter, reaching south into New Jersey and Pennsylvania and emptying caves in hard-hit areas like New York.

"There are not as many as there are supposed to be," bat counter Ryan von Linden whispered deep inside a cave in New York's Hudson Valley. His headlamp swept across isolated clusters of bats hanging off the rock ceiling. "Not even close."

Two winters after it was first observed, bats in at least a half-dozen states have been infected by white-nose syndrome. While researchers recently identified the fungus that creates the distinctive white smudg-

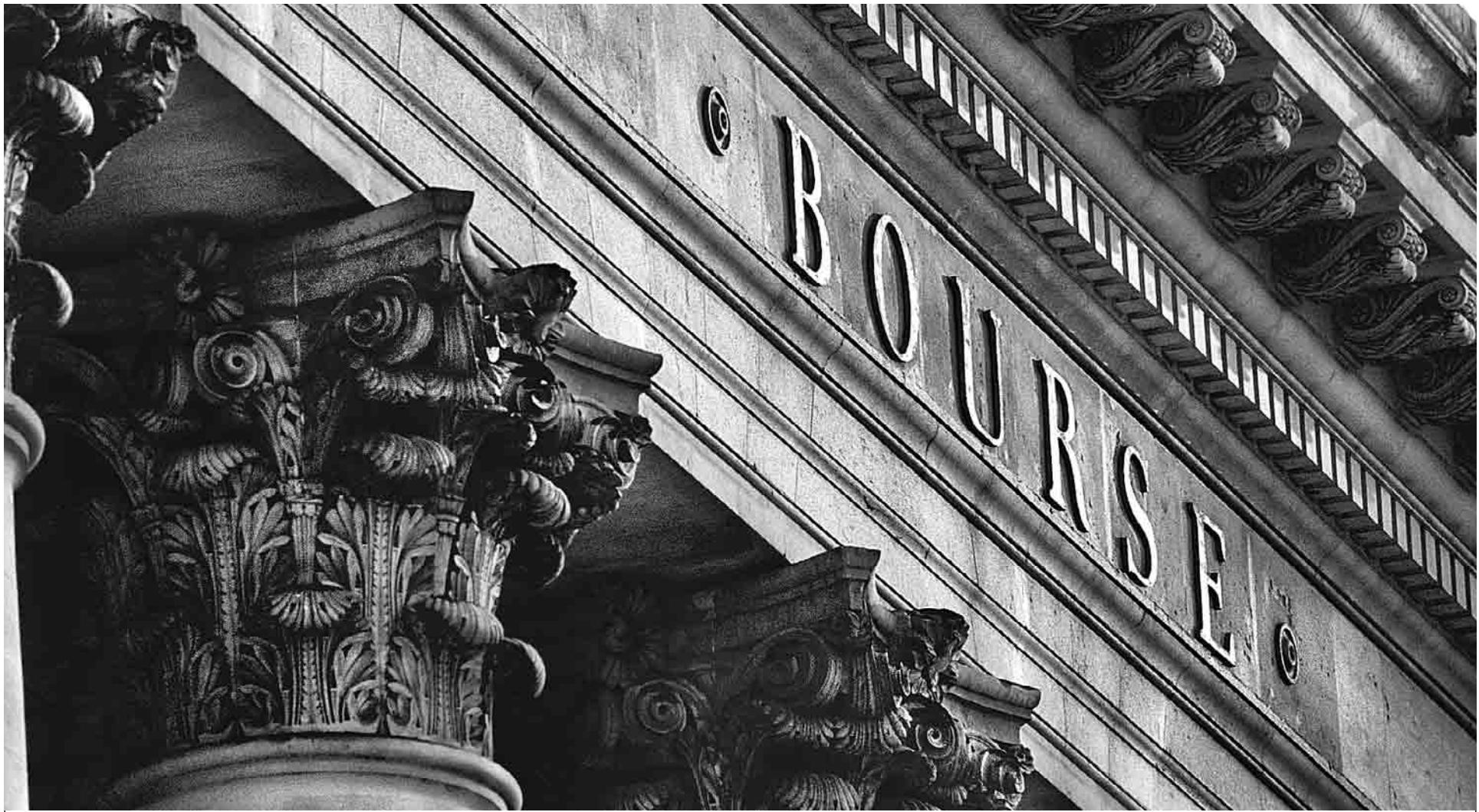


White-nose syndrome is taking a heavy toll on the bat population of New York.

es on hibernating bats' noses and wings, they are scrambling to find a way to stop the scourge.

The syndrome poses no health threat to humans, though some scientists say that if bat populations diminish too much, the insects and crop pests they eat could flourish.

MICHAEL HILL (AP)



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# World



**EXTRA BAGGAGE:** An Australian man was caught with two live pigeons stuffed in his pants after a trip to the Middle East, customs officials said Tuesday. The 23-year-old was also carrying two eggs in a vitamin container, seeds in a money belt and an undeclared eggplant.

## In Brief



Samira Ahmed Jassim is suspected of recruiting 80 female bombers in Iraq.

BAGHDAD

### Suspect in Female Suicide Bomber Recruiting Arrested

A woman suspected of recruiting more than 80 female suicide bombers has been arrested, the Iraqi military said Tuesday, dealing a major blow to one of the most effective forms of attacks in Iraq. The woman, who was identified as 50-year-old Samira Ahmed Jassim, was shown confessing in a video played for reporters in Baghdad. Dressed in a black robe, she described how she would persuade the women to be bombers, then escort them to an orchard for training and finally lead them to their targets. (AP)

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

### Official Confirms N. Korea Is Preparing Missile Test

North Korea's apparent preparations for a ballistic missile test, reportedly detected by South Korean officials monitoring a train headed to a launch site, appear to be the country's latest attempt to get President Obama's attention. A South Korean official on Tuesday confirmed the preparations, first reported by Japanese and South Korean media citing sources as saying the missile had the potential to reach the western United States. (AP)

JERUSALEM

### Palestinians, Israelis Trade Fire; Hamas Offers Truce

Israeli warplanes bombed the Gaza-Egypt border Tuesday, aiming for tunnels used by Gaza's Hamas rulers to smuggle in weapons and supplies, after a Palestinian rocket hit a city in southern Israel. Despite the continuing attacks, Egyptian mediators are seeking a long-term truce; on Tuesday, Hamas offered a one-year cease-fire. (AP)

# Iran Sends First Satellite Into Orbit

## Launch is major step for the space program, worrying other nations

TEHRAN, IRAN | Iran sent its first domestically made satellite into orbit, the president announced Tuesday, a key step for an ambitious space program that worries the U.S. and other world powers because the same rocket technology used to launch satellites can also deliver warheads.

For nearly a decade, Iran has

sought to develop a national space program, creating unease among international leaders already concerned about its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The telecommunications satellite — called Omid, or hope, in Farsi — was launched late Monday after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gave the order to proceed, according to a report on state radio.

A U.S. counterproliferation official confirmed the launch and suggested the technology was not sophisticated. Speaking on condi-



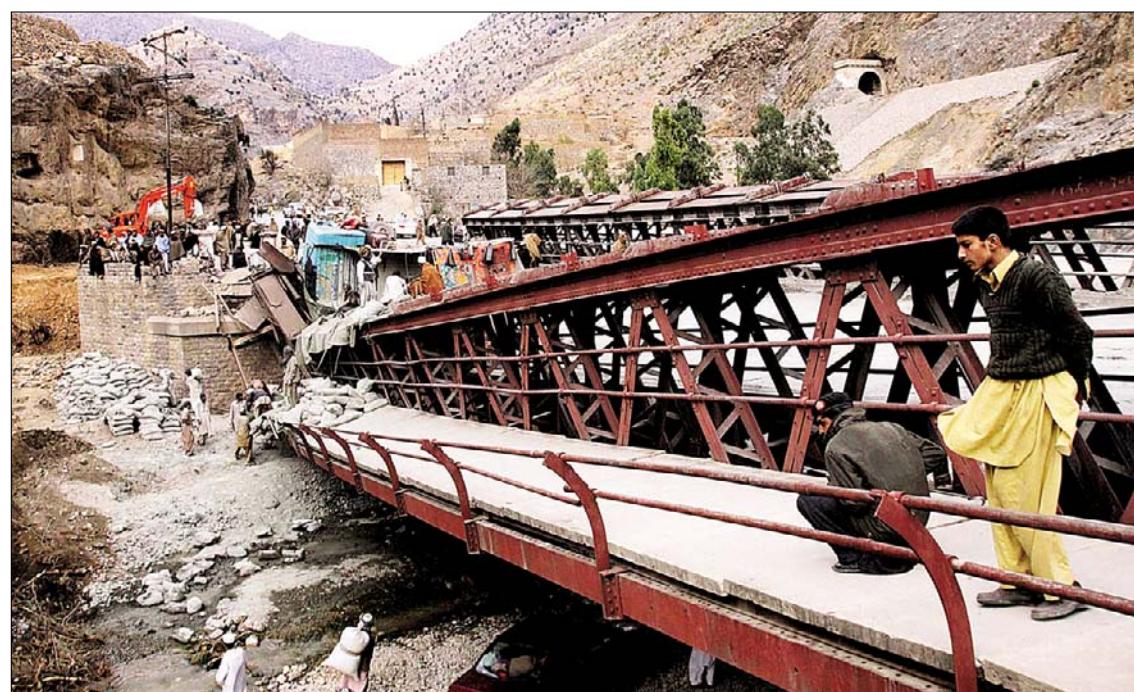
A photo from the Fars News Agency claims to show Iran's satellite launch.

tion of anonymity to discuss intelligence gathering, the official said it appeared it "isn't too far removed from Sputnik," the first Soviet orbit-

er launched in 1957.

The launch set off concern in the United States, Europe and Israel about possible links between its satellite programs and its work with missiles and nuclear technology.

"There's almost always a link between satellite programs like this and military programs, and there's almost always a link between satellites and nuclear weapons," said James Lewis, an expert on defense technology at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. NASSER KARIMI (AP)



Local residents look at a bridge that was destroyed by militants Tuesday in the Pakistani tribal area of Khyber, near Peshawar.

# U.S. Supply Routes Face a Squeeze

## Militants wreck bridge in Pakistan, halt flow of aid for Afghan war

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | U.S. forces in Afghanistan saw their supply lines squeezed from the north and east Tuesday after militants blew up a bridge in Pakistan, and Kyrgyzstan said it would end U.S. use of a key air base after Russia's announcement of new aid for the Central Asian nation.

Securing efficient and safe supply routes into Afghanistan has

become a top priority for U.S. officials as the Pentagon prepares to send in up to 30,000 more American forces this year.

Attackers on Tuesday blew up a bridge in northwestern Pakistan

75

The percentage of supplies for U.S. troops in Afghanistan that are transported via Pakistan.

in a fresh salvo in an escalating campaign to cripple Washington's war in Afghanistan.

The bridge in the Khyber Pass partially twisted and collapsed on one end.

While U.S. officials have long said they are seeking fresh supply routes, they have never hinted publicly that they are concerned about running out of food or fuel. American forces say they stockpile enough aid to last 60 to 90 days in the event that their supply chain is severed.

The top U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan shrugged off any supply worries after Tuesday's events, saying that traffic was already flowing again in Pakistan after the attack. "They made a bypass," said Col. Greg Julian.

JASON STRAZIUSO (AP)

# Vatican Is On Defense Over Pope

German leader urges Benedict XVI to reject denials of Holocaust

BERLIN | German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on Pope Benedict XVI to make a "very clear" rejection of Holocaust denials after the Vatican's rehabilitation of a former bishop who questioned whether 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis.



Merkel

Merkel's rare and public demand came amid increasing outrage among Germany's Roman Catholic leaders over the German-born pope's decision.

Merkel said she "does not believe" there has been adequate clarification of the Vatican's position on the Holocaust amid the controversy over the lifting of the excommunication of British-born Richard Williamson.

Benedict last week expressed "full and indisputable solidarity" with Jews and warned against any Holocaust denials, but several leading German bishops have decried the decision and called for the rehabilitation to be revoked. MELISSA EDDY (AP)

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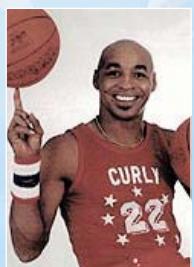
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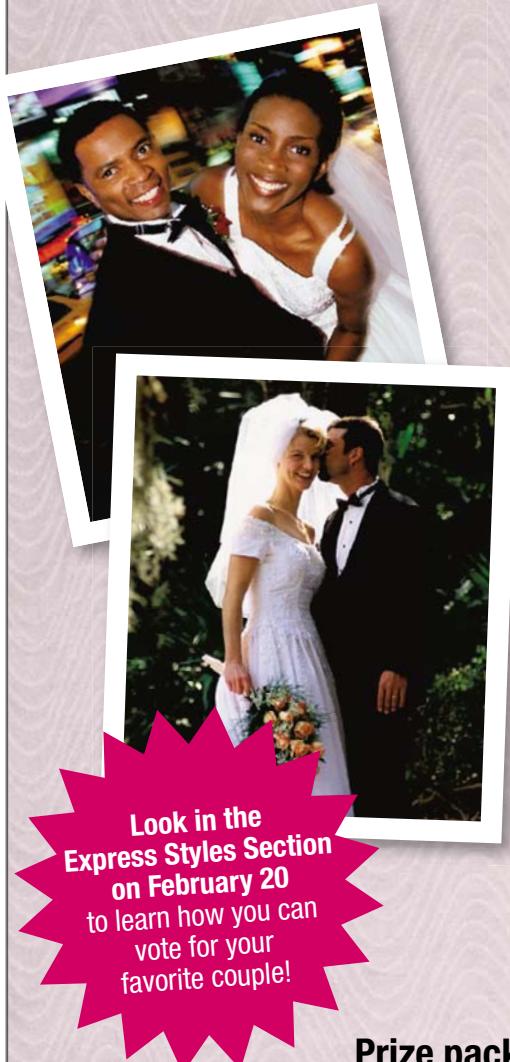
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Visit [expressnightout.com](http://expressnightout.com) and click on the contest link. You will be prompted to complete basic information and responses to discussion questions, and to attach a photograph. If you have questions, please send an e-mail with subject line "Weddings Contest" to [weddings@readexpress.com](mailto:weddings@readexpress.com).

#### Selecting the winning couple:

Express features editors will select five finalist couples whose profiles will appear in the Friday, February 20, issue of the Express Weekend Styles section. Entrants with the most compelling and creative submissions will be selected as finalist couples. Then, Express readers will vote for their favorite finalist couple from February 20 through February 27, and the winning couple will be announced in Weekend Styles on March 6. One couple will win a wedding package worth \$35,000!

#### Prize package includes \$35,000 in wedding related services and merchandise:

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Wedding planning services from  
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See [expressnightout.com](http://expressnightout.com) for complete official rules.

No purchase necessary. Entrants must be engaged, 21+ years old, and a legal resident of the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia. Employees of Express Publications, LLC, The Washington Post, and each of the prize providers are not eligible. Entries must be received by 11:59 PM ET on Sunday, February 8, 2009. Subject to complete official rules. See official rules for ARV of each prize element.

**RUE OBAMA:** The French Caribbean island of Martinique has named a street after President Obama. The 473-foot-long street is in the city of Le Diamant.



## World

# China Open About Protest

In rare show of candor, state broadcaster airs insult against premier

**BEIJING** | It hesitated for hours over the sensitive footage of a British protester shouting "dictator" and throwing a shoe at Premier Wen Jiabao. But, finally, China's carefully controlled state broadcaster ran it Tuesday.

The move was a remarkable display of openness — but the footage already was leaking into China via satellite television and the Internet. Critics said it showed the increasing power of such media to erode strict information controls.

"It is impossible for a country to shut out a piece of news," said Shao Peiren, head of Zhejiang University's communications research institute in eastern China.

The broadcast might also help the government by appealing to Chinese patriotism. Wen is the leadership's most popular figure, and he emerged as the hero after last



DARREN STAPLES/WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES

A guard picks up the shoe that a protester threw at the Chinese premier Monday.

year's earthquake, calling himself "Grandpa Wen." The nickname was embraced by some Chinese.

Still, incidents that could be seen as insulting to the Chinese leadership have long been treated with great sensitivity. The first Chinese reports on the protest during Wen's visit to Britain's Cambridge University left out key details, including that a shoe had been thrown.

But the China Central Television broadcast had it all. The evening

news showed the footage among the first stories of its half-hour broadcast, leading into it with a report on Wen's speech itself.

The incident echoed the news conference in December at which an Iraqi reporter threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush — covered widely not only in China but also around the world.

**“It is impossible for a country to shut out a piece of news.”**

SHAO PEIREN, ZHEJIANG UNIV.

Bush joked off his shoe attack, saying "it was a size 10," but China's response was far sterner.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu called the act "despicable" but said it would not "stem the tide of friendly relations between China and Britain." HENRY SANDERSON (AP)

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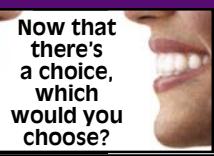
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# Money



Wells Fargo had planned corporate outings to the Encore Las Vegas, left, and its sister hotel, the Wynn Las Vegas, right.

## Bank Rethinks Vegas Trips

Wells Fargo planned  
pricey junkets despite  
\$25B federal bailout

WASHINGTON | Wells Fargo & Co., which received \$25 billion in taxpayer bailout money, says it's reconsidering whether to hold a corporate junket to Las Vegas amid criticism from Capitol Hill.

The company had planned a posh outing for its top mortgage writers to kick off this week at the Wynn Las Vegas. The conference is a Wells Fargo tradition. Previous years have included all-expense-paid helicopter rides, wine tasting,

**“It’s really important  
that our team members  
are still valued  
and recognized.”**

MELISSA MURRAY, WELLS FARGO

horseback riding in Puerto Rico and a private Jimmy Buffett concert in the Bahamas.

“I was amazed with just how lavish it was,” said Debra Rickard, a former Wells Fargo employee who attended the events regularly until

she left the company in 2004.

After The Associated Press reported that this year's event was about to kick off, the company defended its decision. But after swift outcry from Capitol Hill, a company spokesman says it's reconsidering its plan.

While the recession has led other banks, such as Bank of America, to cancel employee recognition outings, Wells Fargo has not.

“Recognition events are still part of our culture,” spokeswoman Melissa Murray said earlier in the day. “It’s really important that our team members are still valued and recognized.” (AP)

## Automobile Sales Continue Free Fall

Staggering decline  
in Jan. purchases is  
ominous sign for '09

DETROIT | Chrysler's U.S. vehicle sales plunged 55 percent in January, while General Motors' tumbled 49 percent and Ford's dropped 40 percent, starting 2009 at an abysmal pace for the whole auto industry as lower sales to fleet buyers such as rental car companies weighed down the results.

Toyota's sales dove 32 percent

for the month, Nissan's dropped 30 percent, and Honda's fell 28 percent, putting the overall industry on track for its fourth-straight month in which U.S. sales plunged 30 percent or more.

But Subaru bucked the trend of declines for a second month in a row, posting an 8 percent sales increase, and Hyundai said its sales

jumped 14 percent.

Hyundai credited its increase to its offer to cover a new vehicle's depreciation if customers return a car within 12 months because they are unable to make the payments.

Chrysler's sales chief, Steven Landry, told reporters earlier at a meeting with dealers that U.S. industry sales could drop as much as 35 percent in January. The annualized sales rate for the month could drop below 10 million for the first time in more than 26 years, he said. (AP)

**14**

The percentage  
Hyundai's sales  
rose in January.  
It's the only car-  
maker besides  
Subaru to see a  
sales increase.



**BEST BOOK EVER:** President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama made a surprise stop at the Capital City Public Charter School in Northwest Washington Tuesday to read to a group of second-graders. The president said: "We were just tired of being in the White House."

## Local

### In Brief

RICHMOND, VA.

#### Va. Senate Puts off Vote To Close Gun-Show Loophole

After killing a bill to require background checks on most buyers at gun shows, the Senate has voted to reconsider the bill another day. On an 18-22 vote, the Senate rejected legislation to close the so-called "gun-show loophole," which allows private sellers at the public events to not conduct the background checks that licensed dealers must perform. After the vote was taken, a senator who voted against the bill asked that it be reconsidered. Then the bill's sponsor asked that it be considered at a later date. (AP)

WASHINGTON

#### D.C. Council Mulls Letter Grades for Restaurants

The D.C. Council is considering legislation that would require restaurants to post letter grades based on health department inspections. Council member Mary Cheh introduced a bill Tuesday that would require the city's health department to come up

with a grading system; restaurants would then be required to post their A, B, C or F in a front window. Cheh notes that Los Angeles has a similar system, and that it has led to fewer food poisoning cases. New York City also will begin phasing in such a system over the next two years. (AP)

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

#### Md. Revises Number of Slot Machine License Requests

Maryland has received requests for far fewer slot machines in five license proposals than previously thought. Two of the six proposals also failed to pay the required licensing fee, raising questions about how bids will be received for one of two proposals in Anne Arundel County and another in Allegany County. Donald Fry, who is the chairman of a state commission overseeing the license process, says the state received up-front payment for only 6,550 slot machines. (AP)

# Inauguration Security Audit Sought

Request comes after Post story reveals lax screening for donors

The chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security has requested an independent audit of security surrounding the presidential inauguration of Barack Obama after inaugural donors said they were not screened for firearms or explosives between leaving a public street and entering areas near the president.

Six major donors told The Washington Post last month that following a security screening on Inauguration Day, they mingled with public crowds before being allowed on "secure" buses that took them to seats near Obama at the Capitol and, later, to bleachers beside him at the White House.

In a letter Monday to Homeland Security Inspector General Richard L. Skinner, Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, D-Miss., said the allegations raised "significant concerns" about inaugural security led

by the U.S. Secret Service.

"In the interest of ensuring the integrity of Secret Service protective operations, and the security of our nation's leaders, I request that you audit the Secret Service protective security plans for the inauguration, investigate and identify any deficiencies in security operations," he wrote.

Ed Donovan, a spokesman for the Secret Service, said the agency was preparing a response.

Donors also said security seemed lacking leading to private meetings

with Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden in the days before the inauguration. One said inspections were so lax that no one noticed when he brought in a guest whose name hadn't been provided for a background check to take pictures with Biden at a breakfast the morning before the ceremony.

Thompson wrote that he was also concerned that VIP guests posted accounts of the lax security in near-real time on popular online forums such as Twitter.com.

AARON C. DAVIS (THE WASHINGTON POST)

GREENBELT, MD. | DENNY'S OFFERS FREE BREAKFAST



MARK GAIL/TWP

**HUNGRY HERD:** Customers lined up to get a free Grand Slam breakfast—advertised during the Super Bowl—at the Denny's restaurant in Greenbelt, Md., Tuesday. They were given a choice of waiting for the meal or accepting a rain check.

## The Lotteries

Tuesday, Feb. 3

### DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	<b>8-8-6</b>
Evening Lucky Numbers	<b>0-2-2</b>
Mid-day DC 4	<b>5-2-8-7</b>
Evening DC 4	<b>5-9-3-7</b>

Rolling Cash Five **9-11-16-18-22**

Daily 6 **1-15-19-31-32-39 Bonus: 17**

### MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	<b>2-6-4</b>
Evening Pick 3	<b>4-1-8</b>
Mid-day Pick 4	<b>1-9-1-0</b>
Evening Pick 4	<b>7-5-0-7</b>
Match 5	<b>5-9-27-35-38 Bonus: 30</b>

### VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	<b>6-9-7</b>
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	<b>0-5-2</b>
Mid-day Pick 4	<b>7-3-2-6</b>
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	<b>4-0-5-0</b>
Mid-day Cash 5	<b>12-14-19-21-25</b>
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	<b>3-8-15-21-27</b>

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office.

# Va. Vote Turnout Dismal

It was Election Day in Fairfax County, but the electricity that was in the air during the presidential contest on Nov. 4 was gone. Officials reported dismal turnout in Tuesday's race for chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Voters trickled into their polling places as a light snow fell across the region, most of them casting their ballots for one of the two front-runners, Democrat Sharon S. Bulov of a Braddock and Republican Pat S. Herrity of Springfield, who both sit on the Board of Supervisors.

The candidates spent the morning making a final push to turn out supporters, even offering rides if weather was a deterrent. Despite worries that icy conditions could hinder some from casting their ballots, polls opened on time and without incident, said Rokey Suleman, the county's general registrar.

Though turnout is typically low during special elections for local office, Suleman said election fatigue and a brief, low-key campaign made it especially abysmal Tuesday. He had initially estimated that 10 percent of the county's 680,000 registered voters would come out to vote. SANDHYA SOMASHEKHAR (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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## Cars



DAN NEIL/LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK 350 boasts engineering on par with its C-class sedan cousin. The 3.5-liter V-6 engine is what a gas-powered Swiss watch would sound like.

# Park It in The Dark

Mercedes GLK boasts C-class engineering in a less-stylish SUV

**UGLY** | If ever you needed a reason to shoot out the light in your garage, I present the 2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK 350, a vivacious and elegant little ute disguised as a vandalized Subaru Forester. What's the deal here?

The exterior is a veritable food fight of odd angles and curious proportions, fender swells and dissonant accent lines, and all of it buttoned by a hilariously oversized, nay, desperate grille.

Oh, yes, looks matter. The premium compact SUV segment (luxe-ute) was once the sole domain of BMW's X3, which debuted in 2003. With rising fuel prices and cultural disapproval prompting suburbanites to downsize their vanity, manufacturers are diving into the segment: Acura RDX, Infiniti EX35, Land Rover LR2, the new VW Tiguan and Volvo XC60. Any and all are prettier than the GLK, in the way Einstein was smarter than his dog.

So, as the GLK rolls into showrooms, it has already lost the swim-

### NUTS & BOLTS

→ MERCEDES-BENZ GLK 350

**\$35,900**

**Powertrain:** 3.5-liter, 24-valve V-6 with variable valve timing; seven-speed automatic transmission; all-wheel drive | **Wheelbase:**

108.5 inches | **Measurements:** 178.2 inches long, 4,036 pounds

**Horsepower:** 268 at 6,000 rpm |

**Torque:** 248 pound-feet at 2,400-5,000 rpm | **EPA Fuel Economy:** 16 mpg city, 21 mpg highway

suit competition. Good thing it's such a little gem mechanically.

The tensed eagerness and muscularity of the 3.5-liter V-6 power plant, the transparent gearshifts, the lovely resonance at high rpm — everything that's true in the C sedan is true in the GLK. This is what a gasoline-powered Swiss watch would sound like.

That said, the GLK certainly did grow on me. And it might just be that people might read the GLK as endearingly awkward, ugly cute. It has always worked for me.

DAN NEIL (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

### DISCUSSIONS

## REAL WHEELS

I've narrowed my decision on a new car to the Lexus SC 430 and the Mercedes-Benz SL-Class. My most important criteria are safety, reliability and fun. Which would you recommend?

The Mercedes-Benz. The Lexus is nice. The SL-Class Mercedes-Benz is authentic luxury and performance. And you have one of the highest-rated M-B dealers in the nation in Arlington, Va., at American Service Center on Glebe Road. They know what they're doing over there.

Right now, GM needs the cash more than it needs the [Saab] brand.

Is anyone saying good things about American-made cars? I'm looking at a Ford Focus.

I spent last Friday driving the new Ford Fusion Hybrid, which trumps the Toyota Camry Hybrid in mileage and ease of function. It trumps it in overall presentation, too. But don't take my word for it: Drive one. And don't take my word that the Ford Focus is competitive with anything in its category — Corolla, Civic, Sentra. Drive one and see for yourself.

I would like to know your take on the fate of Saab, my beloved form of transportation for many years!

GM would like to sell Saab. But in a tight-credit market, it's having a hard time finding buyers. Right now, GM needs the cash more than it needs the brand. Perhaps, Saab ultimately will go to an Indian car company — Tata or Mahindra. Those companies are not well known in the West. But the objective evidence is that they know what they're doing when it comes to building an automotive industry.



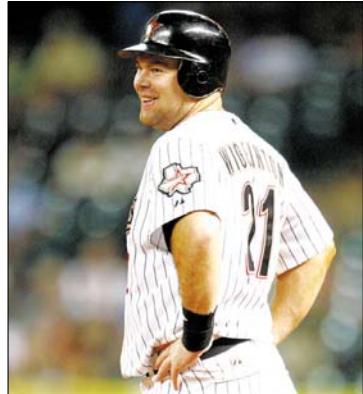
[washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)  
Columnist Warren Brown comes online Fridays at 11 a.m. to answer your questions on every aspect of the automotive industry.



**VOICE OF BASEBALL:** Bob Costas has left HBO and joined the new MLB Network. The agreement announced Tuesday does not affect Costas' relationship with NBC, where he has worked since 1980. Although NBC doesn't televise MLB games, it does report on them.

## Sports

### In Brief



Ty Wigginton's contract may mark the end of Kevin Millar's stint in Baltimore.

#### ORIOLES

#### Baltimore Strikes 2-Year Deal With Wigginton

The Baltimore Orioles and free agent Ty Wigginton reached a preliminary agreement on a \$6 million, two-year contract. The 31-year-old batted .285 with 23 homers and 58 RBI with the Houston Astros last season. A right-handed hitter, Wigginton has a .270 career average, 110 home runs and 384 RBI in 784 games. Wigginton played third base and left field last season, but has also played first base, second base and right field. His signing likely means Kevin Millar's three-year run with the Orioles has likely ended. (AP)

#### WNBA

#### Storm Waives Swoopes

Sheryl Swoopes may have played her last game. The Seattle Storm waived the three-time WNBA MVP and three-time Olympic gold medalist a day before her 2009 contract would have become guaranteed. Swoopes is 37 and might now pursue something she's talked about since September — coaching and being a full-time mother. (AP)

#### TENNIS

#### Serena Williams to Return To Play in D.C. This Summer

Serena Williams, who recently won her 10th Grand Slam singles title, will return to the Washington Kastles after being selected as the top pick Tuesday in the World Team Tennis marquee draft. She'll headline the roster for the Kastles, who enter their second season with the 10-team summer league. (AP)

# Ramirez Swings for More Money

The Dodgers maintain interest in slugger after \$25M deal is rejected

**BASEBALL** | The Dodgers are still trying to bring back Manny Ramirez. But the enigmatic slugger doesn't like their latest deal.

He rejected their third offer — for one year — that would have made him baseball's second-highest paid player behind Alex Rodriguez.

That leaves Ramirez unsigned three months after deciding to test his value in the recession-plagued free agent market, with the Dodgers the only team to have confirmed making any offers.

"We have interest in signing Manny," general manager Ned Colletti told The Associated Press in an e-mail Tuesday. "We don't have a deadline, but these situations can change in an instant, and either side can change them in an instant."

The Dodgers open spring training for the first time in Arizona Feb. 14.

Team owner Frank McCourt said the team still wants Ramirez back, but "at some point, we have to move on," he was quoted by MLB.com.

The latest deal — a one-year, \$25 million offer — was rejected Monday. It would have given Ramirez the second-highest average sal-



Manny Ramirez passed on a one-year contract that would have made him baseball's second-highest-paid player. Instead, the enigmatic slugger wants a multiyear contract that has yet to arrive with less than two weeks before spring training begins.

**“We'd love to sign Manny. But we have to be prudent with our decisions. This is about winning.”**

FRANK MCCOURT, DODGERS OWNER

ary behind New York Yankees third baseman Rodriguez's \$275 million, 10-year contract.

"We came up with what we thought was a creative proposal to give him a lot of money, and well deserved in a challenging economy, and give him flexibility if he feels it's important to test free agency next year," McCourt told MLB.com. "I don't see long-term contracts hap-

pening in this market we're in."

Ramirez, who turns 37 in May, is believed to be seeking a four- or five-year deal starting at \$25 million per season.

"We'd love to sign Manny," McCourt told MLB.com. "But we have to be prudent with our decisions. This is about winning now, but also in the future." BETH HARIS (AP)

#### TODAY'S TV LINEUP

**WIZARDS (7 P.M. ON CSN)** The Nets, who are in playoff contention, visit the Wizards, who are in contention for the top pick in the draft.

**LOCAL COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN2 AND 7 P.M. ON MASN)** The Virginia Cavaliers face Boston College, and VCU takes on UNC-Wilmington.

**MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. AND 9 P.M. ON ESPN)** No. 20 Syracuse looks to avoid being upset by West Virginia, and No. 10 Clemson can prove it's for real with a win over No. 4 Duke.

**MORE MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7:30 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. ON ESPN2)** No. 7 Wake Forest tries to shake off its loss to Georgia Tech when visiting Miami, and No. 16 Texas hosts Missouri.

# S.C. Police Mull Charges for Phelps

Sheriff investigating marijuana photo has tough stance on drugs

**POT-GATE** | Olympic superstar Michael Phelps could face criminal charges as part of the fallout from a photo that surfaced showing the swimmer smoking from a marijuana pipe at a University of South Carolina house party.

An spokesman for Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, who is known for his tough stance on drugs, said Tuesday the department was investigating.

"Our narcotics division is review-

ing the information that we have, and they're investigating what charges, if any, will be filed," said Lt. Chris Cowan, a spokesman for agency.

The photo, first shown in British tabloid News of the World on Sunday, was snapped at a November party while Phelps was visit-

#### A new era for athletes

→ A snapshot of Michael Phelps inhaling from a marijuana pipe is the latest manifestation of the issue confronting athletes and celebrities in an era in which technology has invaded what once was considered private. | **Today's Sports**

**IN** The Washington Post

ing the university, according to the paper.

Phelps, 23, and his team have not disputed the photo's accuracy. Phelps has issued a public apology, acknowledging "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after the photo appeared.

One of Phelps' agents, Drew Johnson, said Tuesday authorities had not contacted the swimmer. "So, we really can't speculate," he said.

Under South Carolina law, possession of 1 ounce or less of marijuana is a misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to \$200 and 30 days in jail for the first offense. Possession of paraphernalia is a \$500 fine. (AP)



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## Sports

**CLOSE CALL:** President Obama rooted for Pittsburgh, but that didn't stop him from calling Arizona coach Ken Whisenhunt the day after the Cardinals lost Sunday's heartbreaker.



# Terps Land Local Recruits

Maryland football set to unveil new class of highly ranked players

**TERPS FOOTBALL** | Maryland is set to announce a 24-man football recruiting class that has a decidedly local flavor.

Head coach Ralph Friedgen made protecting the home turf a priority and is slated to sign 14 players from the Maryland-Washington, D.C., region.

Heading the list are Good Counsel running back Caleb Porzel, Quince Orchard cornerback Travis Hawkins, Forestville defensive end DeOnté Arnett and Edmondson defensive end David Mackall, all of whom are rated four-star recruits by both Scout.com

and Rivals.com.

Porzel rushed for 1,152 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior while displaying breakaway speed. The 5-foot-9, 175-pounder is one of the fastest players to come out of Maryland in recent years, with an ability to consistently run the 40-yard dash in less than 4.4 seconds. He picked the Terps over West Virginia and Pittsburgh after backing off a verbal commitment to Virginia.

Arnett is a rangy end with the wing span of a 7-footer. He registered 28 sacks his final two seasons at Forestville High and saw his stock soar after being named defensive most valuable player at the Premiere Classic combine in New Jersey last summer. Arnett attracted 20 scholarship offers, and

chose Maryland over Ohio State and Tennessee.

Hawkins also received 20 scholarship offers from schools in every Bowl Championship Series conference and settled on Maryland after seriously considering Florida and West Virginia. A tremendous athlete who also played quarterback and wide receiver on offense, Hawkins has been told by Friedgen that he will compete for playing time at cornerback as a freshman.

Mackall is a versatile defender capable of playing linebacker or end. The 6-foot-3, 240-pounder had a huge senior season with 91 tackles and six sacks and was named defensive MVP of the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in Myrtle Beach, S.C. (AP)

### SUPER BOWL GLOW | STEELERS NATION CELEBRATES



KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

**A SEA OF BLACK AND GOLD:** Steelers defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau, 71, celebrates during a parade Tuesday in Pittsburgh in honor of the team's sixth Super Bowl title. The Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals, 27-23, Sunday.

### Super Bowl Drew Record TV Ratings

**SUPER BOWL** | Upon further review, Nielsen Media Research now says the Arizona-Pittsburgh Super Bowl game was the most-watched in history.

Nielsen said 98.7 million people,

on average, were watching Pittsburgh's exciting 27-23 victory Sunday night. That beats the 97.5 million who watched the 2008 game, which held the record for most popular Super Bowl.

On Monday, Nielsen had reported that this year's game had 95.4 million viewers — impressive, but not a record-setter. Nielsen explained the discrepancy by saying a more complete check of its records revealed additional viewership on some digital tier networks. (AP)



**DISAPPEARING ACT:** All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson of the Orlando Magic could miss the rest of the season because of a torn labrum in his right shoulder. An MRI revealed the injury Tuesday, the team said. He'll be evaluated during the week to see whether he needs season-ending surgery.

## Sports

# Huskies Have the Look of Top Dogs

No. 1 UConn. lives up to its billing during its big win over Louisville

**MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS** | Don't get Jim Calhoun wrong. The Connecticut coach isn't complaining about the Huskies' rising to No. 1 for the first time in three years.

But look at the calendar. It's February. Forgive him if doesn't get too excited.

"Being No. 1 is like winning in Maui," Calhoun said. "It's nice, but I want to be there in April."

The way the Huskies are play-

ing, they might be.

Jeff Adrien scored 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds and UConn dominated No. 5 Louisville 68-51 on Monday night, serving notice that it plans to hold onto the top spot for a while.

"It is time to get better, and we are doing it," said center Hasheem Thabeet, who had 14 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks. "To be the No. 1 team is something good. It's starting to come. We realize we can be a great team."

Maybe the Huskies (21-1, 10-1 Big East) already are. "They're very truly the No. 1 team in the country," said



Kemba Walker celebrates after UConn dominated Louisville on Monday night.

**“Being No. 1 is like winning in Maui. It's nice, but I want to be there in April.”**

**JIM CALHOUN, UCONN COACH**

Louisville coach Rick Pitino. "We weren't in their league tonight."

Louisville (17-4, 8-1) had come in as arguably the hottest team in the Big East, winning nine straight games, including four against

ranked opponents.

One of those victories had come against then-No. 1 Pittsburgh on Jan. 17, a win that set off a three-week scramble at No. 1. Wake Forest and Duke both took turns at the top, only to quickly tumble back to Earth.

Don't plan on the Huskies' going away so quickly.

"We've still got a lot to prove," Adrien said. "We still play with a chip on our shoulder. We went into the [NCAA] tournament a couple years ago No. 1 and lost. That happens. This team is a lot closer than that team." **WILL GRAVES (AP)**

**LATE GAMES:** The Hoyas' and Terps' hoops games ended after deadline. For a recap of each | **Today's Post, Sports**

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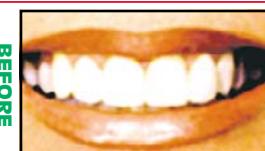
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host the 2010 Winter Olympics.

It's the most populous destination ever to host the Winter Olympics, with 2.1 million people in the greater Vancouver region, according to Canada's 2006 census.

Any exploration of the city would be incomplete without a stroll on the cobbled streets of Gastown, with its old-world charm, quaint pubs, restaurants and galleries.

Galleries in other areas are worth a visit, too. The Vancouver Art Gallery hosts international shows and a permanent exhibit of the work of Emily Carr, who documented West Coast native life.

From there, it's a short hop to Kitsilano, home to Vancouver's

1960s hippie haven, Fourth Avenue. It's now home to an eclectic assortment of restaurants and shops.

Grouse Mountain looms above the mist that often blankets Vancouver from October to March.

On the way to Grouse, take a walk across the Capilano Suspension Bridge, if you dare. It is 450 feet across and 230 feet above North Vancouver's Capilano River.

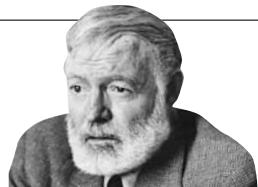
And, if Grouse's gondola piques the curiosity, the ski resort town of Whistler — which hosts the alpine events of the Olympics — has the Peak 2 Peak Gondola, which has the longest unsupported span for a lift of its kind in the world at 1.88 miles. JEREMY HAINSWORTH (AP)

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**FOR WHOM THE REELS ROLL:** Ernest Hemingway is headed for the big screen. The Gotham Group and producer Kevin Fortuna have optioned film rights to A.E. Hotchner's best-selling biography, "Papa Hemingway: A Personal Memoir."

## Entertainment



**ONE WITH NATURE:** Fleet Foxes plan to record their next album in a farmhouse, which should only heighten their mellow vibe.

# Popular Pastoral

## Fleet Foxes' folksy sound appeals to a very wide audience

**SCORE** | Flush with the success of a debut album, many bands favor bigger budgets or slicker studios for their next project. Fleet Foxes think differently. The Seattle-based group plans to record the follow-up to its 2008 self-titled sub-pop

debut in a rented farmhouse on five acres of cleared land in Port Townsend, Wash., a quaint peninsula across Puget Sound from Seattle. To expand their sonic palette, Fleet Foxes may also roll tape in a chapel, a theater and a 200-foot-deep water-supply chamber (with 45 seconds of natural reverb) on an old military base nearby.

It's a fitting setting for a band whose debut is rife with pastoral

imagery (soothing hummingbirds, the Blue Ridge Mountains and white snow turning "as red as strawberries"), intricate harmonies and plaintive acoustic storytelling.

The album put Fleet Foxes at the head of a new school of folk-rock bands inspired by the organic approach to songcraft made famous by the Band and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. And the group hopes that its Port Townsend house

will provide a place to harness its creativity away from the distractions of the city in the same way Big Pink in upstate New York did for the Band.

Several other artists have joined Fleet Foxes out in the woods, writing and recording in the kind of country settings their songs conjure. Among them are Bon Iver, whose slavishly praised 2008 Jagjaguwar debut, "For Emma, Forever Ago," was recorded in a tiny cabin in rural Wisconsin; Ray LaMontagne, whose spartan sound echoes his reclusive life in Maine; and Iron & Wine, whose sincere songwriting has connected with listeners to the tune of 885,000 albums sold in the past six years, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Getting back to the country is hot again, at least by the modest commercial standards of indie rock. On Jan. 20, Fleet Foxes and Bon Iver were in the top 10 of iTunes' alternative chart, prompting Fleet frontman Robin Pecknold to write on the band's MySpace blog, "Life is rad and weird."

Fleet Foxes are the first to admit surprise at having captured the ears of the world with this kind of music. Their debut, released last June, has sold 211,000 copies in the United States. The album topped numerous 2008 year-end critics' polls. "We just like making music together and would do it regardless," guitarist Skyler Skjelset says. "We'd still be making these records whether they sold or not." JONATHAN COHEN AND COURTNEY HARDING (BILLBOARD)

# The Return of 'Afro Samurai'

## Samuel L. Jackson reprises his role as the anime quasi-hero

**DVD** | Samuel L. Jackson — the badass tough-guy in every film he's in — voices the sword-brandishing, classically trained killer of the Japanese order in "Afro Samurai: Resurrection," this year's sequel to the anime series shown on Spike TV in 2007.

Afro Samurai has found peace

after avenging his father's death. But suddenly, Afro is attacked by the scantily clad, viciously bitter Sio (voiced by Lucy Liu) and her henchman, the teddy-bear head-wearing Kuma, who steal his No. 1 samurai headband and a fragment of his father's jaw from his grave. And so, accompanied by Ninja Ninja, Afro begins his demon path to get back at Sio. But along the way, Afro continues his infamous persona — killing those who stand in the way (even



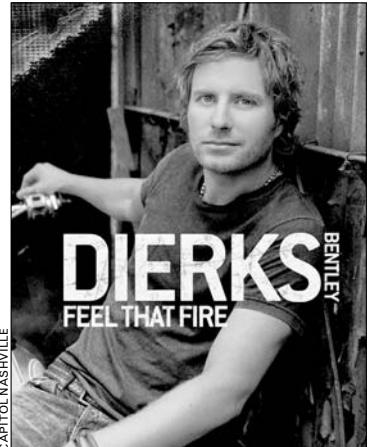
While Afro Samurai might not technically be the bad guy, he spares no one.

**FOR MORE** of our review of "Afro Samurai" on DVD, visit [Expressnightout.com](http://Expressnightout.com).

the innocent).

Though Afro Samurai rarely talks, he's easy to sympathize with, and "Afro Samurai: Resurrection" has all the qualities of successful anime, anyway: a tragic story littered with deaths and a compelling villain in the form of Sio. It's not a bad way to spend 97 minutes — especially with RZA's soundtrack.

ROXANA HADADI



**DIERKS BENTLEY**  
FEEL THAT FIRE

CAPITOL NASHVILLE

Dierks Bentley wisely avoids falling into the pop trap on his latest tracks.

## Country Music — Extra Hot

### Dierks Bentley wows on rock-influenced record 'Feel That Fire'

**MUSIC** | Few contemporary country stars rock as ferociously as Dierks Bentley, as he proves on "Life on the Run," the first song of the singer's fifth album, "Feel That Fire."

Bentley recruited Pearl Jam's Mike McCready to play on the tune, and he opens the album with a slide guitar run that sounds like a motorcycle revving its engine. Likewise, few current Nashville country rockers would close an album with a bluegrass song, "Last Call," with help from mandolinist Ronnie McCoury. No other country star out today could pull off such wildly diverse arrangements and sound so authentic — and so engaging.

The tension between rock's restless freedom and country's time-honored values emerges in Bentley's songwriting, too. The songs on "Feel That Fire" vary from the spirited party anthem "Sideways" to the steamy romanticism of "I Wanna Make You Close Your Eyes" to the spiritual reckoning on "Better Believer."

What Bentley smartly avoids is the middle-of-the-road pop so many other young country singers rely on to reach a radio audience.

MICHAEL MCCALL (AP)

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**TAKEN (PG13)** ✓ 3:05, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30

**INKHEART (PG)** 2:45, 3:30, 7:10

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:45, 9:10, 10:10

**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** 3:20, 5:55, 8:30

**NOTORIOUS (R)** 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:10

**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG13)** 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

**THE UNBORN (PG13)** 8:10, 10:30

**BEDTIME STORIES (PG)** 3:10, 5:40

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 2:30, 6:05, 9:35

**MARLEY & ME (PG)** 1:25

**VALKYRIE (PG13)** 9:50 PM

**AMC SELECT**

**MILK (R)** 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

**THE WRESTLER (R)** 2:35, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55

**DEFIANCE (R)** 3:05, 6:15, 9:15

**DEFIANCE (R)** ✓ 3:05, 6:15, 9:15

**LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG13)** 4:15, 9:55

**GRAN TORINO (R)** 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

**THE READER (R)** 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

**AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14**  
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**IMAX THE DARK KNIGHT: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**  
1:55

**DIGITAL 3D**

**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** 12:30, 3:10, 10:30

**THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: ORFEO ED EURIDICE ENCORE (NR-NOT RATED)** 7:00

**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

**TAKEN (PG13)** 2:25, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:25

**THE UNINVITED (PG13)** 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55

**INKHEART (PG)** 1:50, 4:30, 7:15

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** 1:25, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:30

**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** ✓ 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:30

**NOTORIOUS (R)** 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 12:35, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45

**THE UNBORN (PG)** 9:45 PM

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 5:15, 9:10

**AMC SELECT**

**MILK (R)** 1:20, 4:30, 7:20

**FROST/NIXON (R)** 2:10, 4:50, 7:40

**DEFIANCE (R)** 2:20, 5:00, 7:30

**THE READER (R)** 2:20, 5:00, 7:50

**LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14**  
3111 K Street, N.W.  
202-342-6441

**DIGITAL 3D**

**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** ✓ 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05

**TAKEN (PG13)** ✓ 2:30, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** 1:00, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30

**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 1:10, 4:35, 8:15

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** ✓ 1:10, 4:35, 8:15

**AMC SELECT**

**FROST/NIXON (R)** 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** 1:50, 4:40, 7:25, 10:20

**THE WRESTLER (R)** 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

**DEFIANCE (R)** 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15

**LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG13)** 1:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:05, 10:30

**GRAN TORINO (R)** 2:20, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

**THE READER (R)** 7:10, 10:00

**DOUBT (PG13)** 1:35, 4:15

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**IMAX THE DARK KNIGHT: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**  
2:30

**DIGITAL 3D**

**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

**DIGITAL PRESENTATION**

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)**  
6:00, 9:35

**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** ✓ 1:40, 4:10, 6:55, 9:25

**TAKEN (PG13)** ✓ 1:24, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

**INKHEART (PG)** 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:20

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** ✓ 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45

**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

**NOTORIOUS (R)** 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:55

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 1:55, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30

**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 2:10, 4:25, 6:35, 9:10

**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG13)** 7:25, 9:55

**THE UNBORN (PG13)** 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40

**MARLEY & ME (PG)** 1:50, 4:00

**AMC SELECT**

**MILK (R)** 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25

**DEFIANCE (R)** 1:05, 4:15, 7:20, 10:25

**GRAN TORINO (R)** 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35

**AMC SELECT**

**AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8**  
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703-998-4200

**THE UNINVITED (PG13)** ✓ 2:00, 4:10, 6:40

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 2:30, 4:40, 7:00

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 3:30, 7:10

**AMC SELECT**

**MILK (R)** 1:50, 4:30, 7:20

**FROST/NIXON (R)** 2:10, 4:50, 7:40

**DEFIANCE (R)** 2:20, 5:00, 7:30

**THE READER (R)** 2:20, 5:00, 7:50

**AMC SELECT**

**MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12**  
800 Shopper's Way, Largo  
301-324-4220

**TAKEN (PG13)** 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

**THE UNINVITED (PG13)** 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

**INKHEART (PG)** 1:20, 4:20, 7:20

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** 1:40, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

**MY BLOODY VALENTINE (R)** 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:15

**3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES**

**NOTORIOUS (R)** 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15, 10:15

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:05, 10:20

**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 9:50 PM

**NOT EASILY BROKEN (PG13)** 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

**THE UNBORN (PG13)** 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20

**GRAN TORINO (R)** 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:20

**AMC SELECT**

**MILK (R)** 1:20, 4:30, 7:20

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** 2:10, 4:50, 7:30

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** 2:20, 5:25, 5:35, 7:20

**THE WRESTLER (R)** 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

**THE READER (R)** 1:45, 4:35, 7:15

**WALTZ WITH BASHIR (R)** 1:00, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00

**DOUBT (PG13)** 2:05, 4:40, 7:05

**RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)** 4:25

**LOEWS UPTOWN 1**  
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.  
1-800-FANDANGO #713

**AMC SELECT**

**FROST/NIXON (R)** 2:40, 5:30, 8:15

**AMC TYSONS CORNER 16**  
7850 Tysons Corner Center  
703-998-4262

**DIGITAL 3D**

**MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)** 12:35, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:40

**THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: ORFEO ED EURIDICE ENCORE (NR-NOT RATED)** 7:00

**NEW IN TOWN (PG)** ✓ 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

**TAKEN (PG13)** ✓ 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10

**THE UNINVITED (PG13)** ✓ 12:45, 3:05, 5:50, 8:05, 10:25

**INKHEART (PG)** 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R)** 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:45

**HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)** 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 2:50, 5:20, 7:40

**BRIDE WARS (PG)** 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55

**THE UNBORN (PG13)** 12:25, 2:45, 5:25, 10:50

**THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13)** 2:25, 9:40

**VALKYRIE (PG13)** 4:05, 9:45

**AMC SELECT**

**FROST/NIXON (R)** 1:00, 7:00

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (R)** 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)** 1:30, 3:50, 8:05, 10:50

**THE WRESTLER (R)** 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:45

**DEFIANCE (R)** 1:05, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15

**LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG13)** 1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10

**GRAN TORINO (R)** 1:35, 4:50, 8:05, 10:50

**THE READER (R)** 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20

**DOUBT (PG13)** 2:05, 4:40, 7:05

**RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)** 4:25

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**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)** 2:20, 4:30, 7:10

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## Entertainment



Ben Kweller is boldly stepping into rugged terrain on his CD "Changing Horses."



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#### For More Information and an application contact:

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## Country Over the Alternative

### On 'Changing Horses,' Ben Kweller is sans sass and unplugged

**MUSIC** | There aren't many musicians who exhibit the earnestness of Ben Kweller. Just 21 when he released his first major album, the singer-songwriter has always displayed an endearing mix of caution, unease and unadulterated talent. Over his last few releases, he's gained confidence as both a songwriter and a vocalist, but the room for him to grow is still massive.

Kweller, residing for the most part in alt-country territory, has always been rock-inclined, never shying away from electric guitar and gritty themes, but still seamlessly mixing in down-home vibe. His exploration of pure country music has been limited at best — no self-respecting country singer would title an album "Sha Sha," after all. But on his newest release, "Changing Horses" (ATO Records), Kweller makes a huge career move and confidently drops the "alt" in "alt-country."

Nothing is plugged in, and gone is the fuzz, the sass and just about all the pop sensibility. Kweller rips open

## express nightout

To read more about of Afton  
 Lorraine Woodward's review of  
 Ben Kweller's "Changing Horses" and to  
 see videos from the artist, visit our Web  
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his heart and lets his all-American blood flow profusely, and the result is an immensely enjoyable listening experience. There's nothing here that would excite any country top 40 station, though, since it lacks sexy tractors and anything that "feels like a woman." Instead, it's just a simple, pedal-steel-driven throwback to campfires and cattle drives, and dames loved and lost.

But Kweller still hints at his pop-folk influences throughout — "On Her Own" is a track on which Bon Jovi meets Mary Tyler Moore, and "Sawdust Man" wouldn't be out of place next to "Rocky Raccoon" on the Beatles' "White Album." Even anti-country fans will find themselves singing along.

While a risky project for someone who's primarily a pop artist, "Changing Horses" is nearly flawless. The country tone certainly won't suit Kweller as a career, but he sells it with gutsy charisma — if he can bring this amount of confidence to future projects, he can pull off anything. **AFTON LORRAINE WOODWARD**

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with the Watson Twins and Jones Street Boys, Feb. 26, 8 p.m., \$20; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)



**RETURNING:** TNT has renewed "Leverage" (Tue., 10 p.m.) for a second season of 15 episodes. The caper drama, which stars Timothy Hutton as part of a team of crooks, has averaged 3.2 million viewers since its Dec. 7 premiere. (AP)

## ON TV TONIGHT

### 'HSM 4'

Hollywood week continues on **AMERICAN IDOL** (8 p.m., Fox).

### OTHER VOICES

Kate flees folks who might know Aaron's secret on **LOST** (9 p.m., ABC). Just when you think one character is the center of the action, a peripheral figure becomes paramount. It seems to be Faraday's (Jeremy Davies) show right now, but that's impossible to determine, particularly when the meaning of "now" has become so relative on this TV show.

### OUT OF ORDER

A judge becomes a murder suspect on **LIE TO ME** (9 p.m., Fox).

### PERKY TUNES

Katie Couric hosts the **ALL ACCESS GRAMMY SPECIAL** (9 p.m., CBS).

### AUSSIE OUTBACK

Nick Cave wrote the screenplay for the 2005 Western film **THE PROPOSITION** (9:45 p.m., IFC), starring Guy Pearce.



**'LOST' CHILD:** Kate (Evangeline Lilly) is still on the run with Claire's baby boy.

### THAT CERTAIN GLOW

The source of radiation remains a mystery on **CSI: NY** (10 p.m., CBS).

### BROKE BLOKE

On **LAW & ORDER** (10 p.m., NBC): an officer with money problems.

### GROWN-UP GERTIE

Jay Leno hosts Drew Barrymore on **THE TONIGHT SHOW** (11:35 p.m., NBC). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURES SYNDICATE)

# A Bayou Bug-Be-Gone Biz

**The Brethertons are as colorful as the critters they remove**

**SOUTHERN LIVING** | If you insist on creating a documentary series about a fractured family in the pest-control business, you might as well call it "The Exterminators" (10:30 p.m., A&E) and set the action in rural Louisiana, where exotic snakes, rodents, gators and colorful characters run wild.

Billy Bretherton acts and dresses like a dandified Confederate war veteran who was decommissioned by way of the circus only to settle down in the critter-control game. When he tangles with a 7-foot-long nest of what might be killer bees, he dons a leather outfit worthy of a "Matrix" movie and protects his head with



**BUGGIN' OUT:** Billy Bretherton and family star in "The Exterminators," on A&E.

a feather boa and a monster mask. Bretherton tries to keep the exterminating to a minimum and is seen trapping and then releasing a mean

mother raccoon with gentle words of comfort and encouragement. As one client describes him, "He's an animal person."

Like many reality series, the work in Bretherton's workplace takes a backseat to family drama. His mother, Donnie, is a loving force under all that Aqua Net. His father, Bill, keeps his own counsel but just may be the brains behind the outfit, known as Vexcon.

For all of its larger-than-life personalities and demanding tasks (Bretherton must rid a baseball stadium of 70,000 bats), "Exterminators" has the air of genuineness. It's also nice to see at least one show that doesn't stereotype life in the Deep South as hateful, violent and perverse. "True Blood" writers should take note. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURES SYNDICATE)

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# Everybody Rot Together

**Rose Funeral** wants metalheads of every stripe to partake

**TO WATCH** Rose Funeral videos and read an article about headliner Abigail Williams, visit [Expressnightout.com](http://Expressnightout.com).

**CD REVIEW** | Ryan Gardner, a guitarist with Rose Funeral, has the word "DOOM" tattooed on his left knuckles. Plus, four of the five members of the Cincinnati-based band have hoops through their lips, and the group's second album, "The Resting Sonata," has 11 songs with titles such as "Remain in Dirt," "Left to Rot," "Created to Kill" and "Embalming the Masses."

If you don't know exactly where this review is going, then you haven't listened to much metalcore or death metal — but the early 20-something musicians who make up Rose Funeral certainly have. While the



They might not look like sharers, but Rose Funeral wants everyone to have a piece.

sounds and themes on "The Resting Sonata" (Metal Blade) are mostly of the genre, Rose Funeral's complete devotion to crushing skulls is as

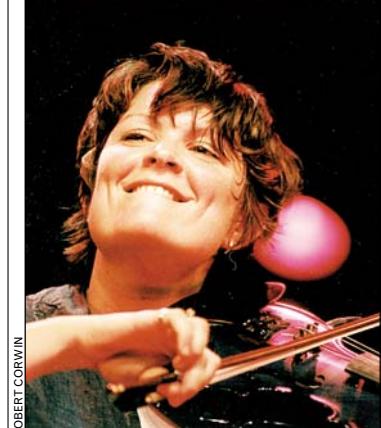
admirable as it is familiar.

Rose Funeral's debut, "Crucify Kill Rot," had a strange drum sound, but its kit has a more round-

ed sound on "The Resting Sonata." Vocalist Tim Russell mostly keeps things bass-y, too, as he belches anti-religious dogma and misanthropic screeds. But on headbangers such as "Dawning the Resurrection, Verse II" and "Buried Beneath," he alternates deathly growls with black-metal screams, giving the songs a ghostly edge that's usually missing from metalcore.

But even if "The Resting Sonata" is more for the hoodie wearers than the corpse-painted ghouls, there's enough overlap to appease both crowds. So, maybe underneath Rose Funeral's unsociable veneer is a group that just wants metalheads to mosh together — or, at least, rot together. **CHRISTOPHER PORTER**

→ **Jaxx**, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield, Va., with Abigail Williams, *Burning the Masses, Conducting From the Grave and the Breathing Process*, 5:15 p.m., \$14; 703-569-5940.



Eileen Ivers and her fiddle will show you what they've got on Saturday.

**THURSDAY**  
**Broadway Today & Tomorrow: Adam Gwon, Stanley Bahorek and Leah Horowitz**:

Two vocalists and an up-and-coming Broadway composer present a new face of theater music. Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)

**'The Cherry Orchard'**: The Washington Shakespeare Company takes on Chekhov's masterpiece about wealthy yet miserable Russians. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Arlington; 8 p.m., \$25-\$50; 800-494-8497. (Pentagon)

**FRIDAY**  
**'The Winter's Tale'**: One of Shakespeare's last plays, this romance is mostly notable for its stage direction: "Exit, pursued by a bear." Folger Theatre, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 8 p.m., \$25-\$55; 202-544-7077. (Capitol South)

**Jete Society Dance Party**: To mingle with the young philanthropist crowd, get in on this glitzy shindig. Embassy of the Russian Federation, 2650 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 9 p.m., \$85; 202-362-3606.

**SATURDAY**  
**Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul**: Virtuoso Irish fiddler. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna; 7:30 p.m., \$25; 703-255-1900.

**First Day of Camp Orientation**: Artist's reception and opening event for an out-of-season "summer camp" of free activities at the gallery. Transformer Gallery, 1404 P St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-483-1102. (Dupont Circle)

**Explore** our searchable list of the area's events, venues, restaurants and movies at [Expressnightout.com/thescene](http://Expressnightout.com/thescene).

## topstops

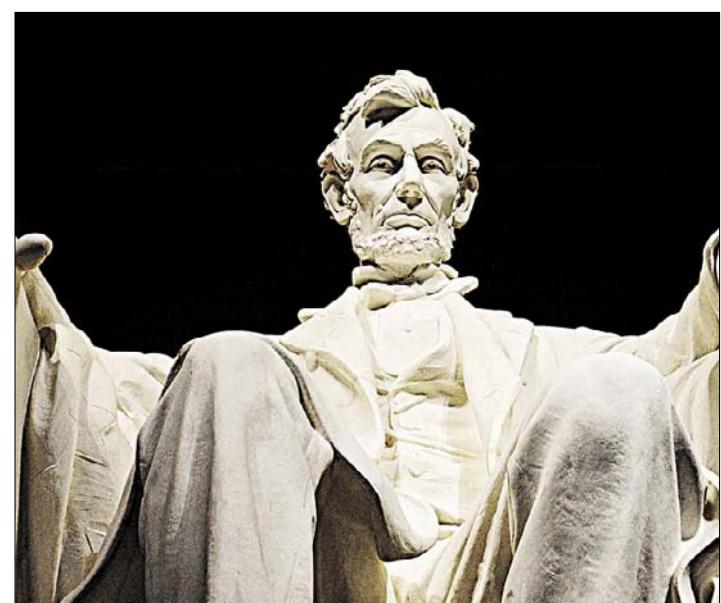


### Classical Dreamboat

Classical music is gorgeous. Perhaps never more so than when it's played by Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk, who are giving a concert at Strathmore tonight. OK, so maybe half the audience will be made up of women who

**2** just think Bell is gorgeous. Really, anything that gets people into classical music is good, and I don't see you complaining about that troupe of gorgeous women who play Beethoven. The fact that Bell is a hunky dreamboat doesn't mean he can't also be a great violinist — and help The Post win a Pulitzer Prize. Thanks, Bell! F.Z.

→ **Strathmore**, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda; 8 p.m., \$47-\$105; 301-581-5100. (Grosvenor)



### A Dream Resurrected

Maybe this is a new era of international cooperation. The evidence: European artist Matthew Thompson has

**3** brought a piece of the Poor People's Campaign to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library with the sculpture, "Hier ist die Future" (which translates to "Here Is the Future.") The plywood sculpture is actually a reconstructed shelter from 1968's Resurrection Day, when thousands of people had a sleepover on the National Mall to show the government the effects of poverty and homelessness. T.H.

→ **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library**, 901 G St. NW; through Feb. 28, free; 202-727-1291. (Gallery Place)

### 1 Honestly, Abe Steals the Show

Forget the National Museum of American History. Ford's Theatre, one of D.C.'s most beloved (sort of) landmarks, is reopening after a long renovation. Its first performance is "The Heavens Are Hung in Black," which is about Abraham Lincoln! Surprise! The show covers the months between the death of Lincoln's son and his signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. F.Z.

→ **Ford's Theatre**, 514 10th St. NW; through March 8, \$25-\$52, those under 35 can snag \$10 tickets for preview performances; 202-347-4833. (Metro Center)

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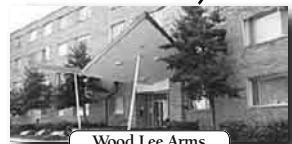
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# LOOK out

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PHOTOS BY EDOUARD H.R. GLUCK/AP

## Relationships

### Pet owners receive feedback on mates from their animals

Meeting the parents can be a test for any new relationship. But what about meeting the pooch?

Pets are part of the family these days, which means they may have opinions about who you're dating.

"In the old days, you had to meet the mother. Now you have to meet the dog and get the dog's approval," says Stephanie LaFarge, director of counseling services for the ASPCA and an expert on the human-animal bond.

Sometimes pets are involved in a relationship from the start, now that there are dating services for animal lovers and couples who meet at dog parks. But if they're not, when the introduction happens, it's important to take the time to make it a positive experience.

**“A bad first meeting can take a long time to get over — like a bad first meeting with the relatives.”**

STEPHANIE LAFARGE, ASPCA

"A bad first meeting can take a long time to get over — like a bad first meeting with the relatives," says LaFarge. "Little things that go wrong in the beginning can take months and sometimes years to undo."

What's at stake is not just a potential significant other's relationship with the animal, but your own feelings, too. It's hard to ignore a pet's response: "My cat just loves him" can be a huge positive, but if your animal reacts fearfully, it can

raise new doubts.

If you're the one meeting a pet for the first time, make an effort in advance. You may think you know dogs or cats, but a simple thing like where a dog likes to be petted can make a big difference. And showing concern for and interest in the pet is a way of showing concern for the person, says LaFarge.

"A lot of people are more emotionally touched when you do something for their pet, more than if someone brings flowers on the first date," she says.

If you're the pet owner, have your animal under control — no one likes being jumped all over at a first meeting — and offer your date information. If the cat doesn't like



**COMMON INTEREST:** Members of the dog lovers group Leashes & Lovers take a hike with their canines in Sloatsburg, N.Y.

## Animal Attraction

to be picked up, don't leave someone to find that out by experience.

As a relationship develops, certain pet issues are typical, such as those over hygiene and physical intimacy. If your date spends all his time trying to get cat hair off his clothes, or you think it's gross that she kisses her dog, don't assume that the problem is going to magically disappear with time.

"Don't ignore little things early on," says LaFarge. "You can work these things out, but you can't pretend they're not relevant, and they show up very early in the relationship."

It's important to remember that conflicts over the pets are often a sign of more fundamental differences. For example, money management is a common relationship issue that often surfaces over the question of how much is appropriate to spend on the animals.

How a person handles these conflicts can be very revealing, says Joel Gavriele-Gold, clinical psychologist and author of "When



A dog named Tex leaps onto a rock while hiking with single pet owners in New York.

Pets Come Between Partners." You learn a lot about the other person and how they deal with relation-

ships," he says. "Is it based on control or cooperation?"

Sometimes, you can turn dif-

ferent priorities into an advantage. Gold says he sees many relationships in which the man is more concerned with keeping the pet active and fit, and the woman is focused on diet and veterinary care, which can work as a division of labor rather than a source of conflict.

But for stubborn problems, remembering that many pet conflicts aren't really about the animals can often be the route to a solution, as it was for one couple having the very common argument about whether the pets should be allowed in the bed.

Gold says that the woman insisted the cats always be in the bedroom with them, and the husband said it made him anxious. "Each thought the other was stubborn and spiteful," says Gold, until he asked a question of the wife: Are you an only child?

Yes, she said, surprised — and she'd always wanted sisters. Her husband, as Gold expected, had come from a large family of eight siblings and he felt that he never had any privacy.

"When they got to see that, they were able to come to a compromise," says Gold. "They really had to make that connection first."

LINDA LOMBARDI (AP)

# LOOK out Online

## express nightout

&gt;&gt; EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

### LIFE & STUFF

#### Beards and Rats

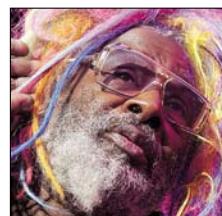
The late Sunday Source section of The Washington Post published reader nominations for the D.C. area's most objectionable eyesores. Meg Zamula is no fan of the Weaver Federal Building, but she thinks there are uglier things in Washington than the architecture, and she's made a gross list. | ONLINE NOW



FILM

#### Doomed Romances

Everyone has had his or her heart broken (if you haven't, curse you), so it's no surprise that folks are buzzing about the romantic comedy "He's Just Not That Into You." But if you want to cry before that, Roxana Hadadi has picked the best on-screen breakups. | ONLINE NOW



### NEWSLETTER

#### The Funkier Clinton

George Clinton got booties shakin' in the '70s and hasn't stopped since. Want to see him for free? Enter for a chance to win tickets to his 9:30 Club gig. Get more info by signing up for our Express Night Out newsletter at Expressnightout.com/newsletter. | ONLINE NOW

## poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

#### IS PRESIDENT OBAMA LIVING UP TO HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES TO REFORM WASHINGTON?

YES 53%

NO 47%



**"Are you really, seriously** asking this question? Has he been in office for enough time to reform anything? Can we stop worrying about the small stuff until after I get my stimulus?"

**COMMENTER MSJB**, RESPONDING TO TUESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "IS PRESIDENT OBAMA LIVING UP TO HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES TO REFORM WASHINGTON?"

**66** Obama spent the better part of the last several years running for president. He had several months from the time of his nomination to think of possible nominees."

**COMMENTER AMUSED**, WHO ADDED, "YET ALL HE CAN COME UP WITH NOW ARE TAX CHEATS, CLINTON RETREADS AND EMPTY SUITS."

**66** President Obama has not been in the White House for a month [yet], and you all are ready to put him down."

**COMMENTER SHERYL**, ADDING, "HOW DO YOU EXPECT HIM TO TURN THINGS AROUND [IN] LESS THAN A MONTH WHEN [GEORGE W.] BUSH [TOOK] EIGHT YEARS TO SCREW IT UP?"

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER](http://EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER)

## Blog LOG

"It will be interesting to see whether this marketing strategy will work. I hope it does, as I have many fond late-night memories of this place."

**SOGOODBLOG.COM** HOPES THAT DENNY'S FREE GRAND SLAM PROMOTION TUESDAY HELPS THE DINER STAY AFLOAT, ADDING, "I AM SURPRISED THAT DENNY'S HAS BEEN FEELING THE PINCH."



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**"The withdrawal of [Tom Daschle] from consideration for a Cabinet post is an anniversary present for the American taxpayer."**

**REDSSTATE.COM** REMINDS US THAT ON FEB. 3, 1913, THE 16TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION WAS RATIFIED, GIVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO COLLECT INCOME TAXES.



## Discussions

#### Phelps' Potshot

The Post's **SALLY JENKINS** was online Tuesday to take your questions about Michael Phelps' apology for smoking marijuana, and the appetites and habits of great athletes.



**I don't want to sound like an old fogey. But is there not something to the idea that, say, a 10-year-old who idolizes Phelps might get the idea that toking is OK since Phelps does it?**

There is certainly something to the idea that Phelps has an influence on children — but I'd argue he certainly has a far better influence than Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan or Ashton Kutcher.

He spends the vast majority of his time living a life of grueling, monkish discipline, and he is dedicated to his craft.

**A friend and I have been debating the Phelps issue, specifically, what would the response if LeBron James had been caught smoking pot? I argue that people are still stupid enough to judge him more harshly than they are Phelps when Phelps actually has a public history of abusing substances (a DUI).**

This debate really gets to the bone. I don't think there's any question, at least in my own mind, that if Michael Phelps was a black athlete, he'd be judged more harshly. And he might well have been pulled over in his car a lot more over the years, too. Usain Bolt couldn't even throw his arms in the air in Beijing without Jaques Rogge's expressing his disapproval.

**I don't see a whole lot of people saying taking that picture of Michael Phelps and selling it to the tabloids was a really rotten thing to do.**

You know, I am so glad someone said that. Which was the really more reprehensible behavior in that room: Phelps' doing something stupid, or a slimedog preying on him with a camera and selling it for profit? I hope to heaven kids take away something about respect for each other from this whole thing.

**If you're a parent and Michael Phelps doesn't meet the role model standard, great — then talk to your kids about a person who does and move on.**

Thank you. Well said.

**TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS:** Author Lurma Rackley discusses her article about Petey Greene, ex-con, community activist and broadcaster at 11 a.m. | [washingtonpost.com/discussions](http://washingtonpost.com/discussions).

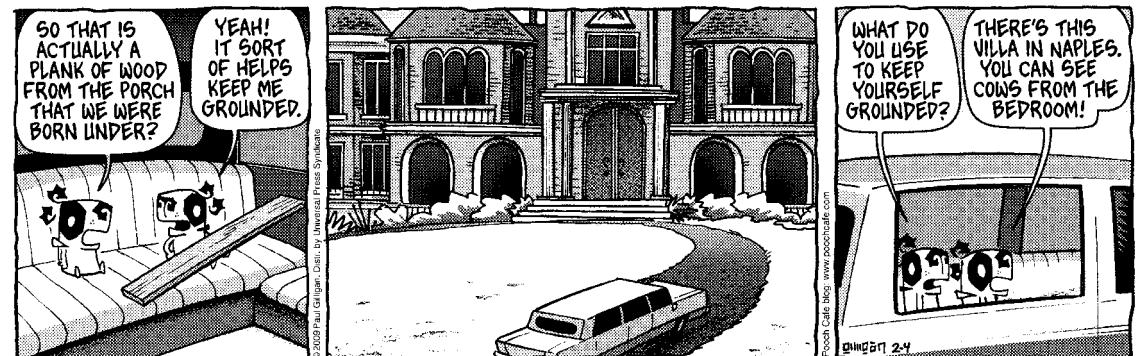
Bizarro | Dan Piraro



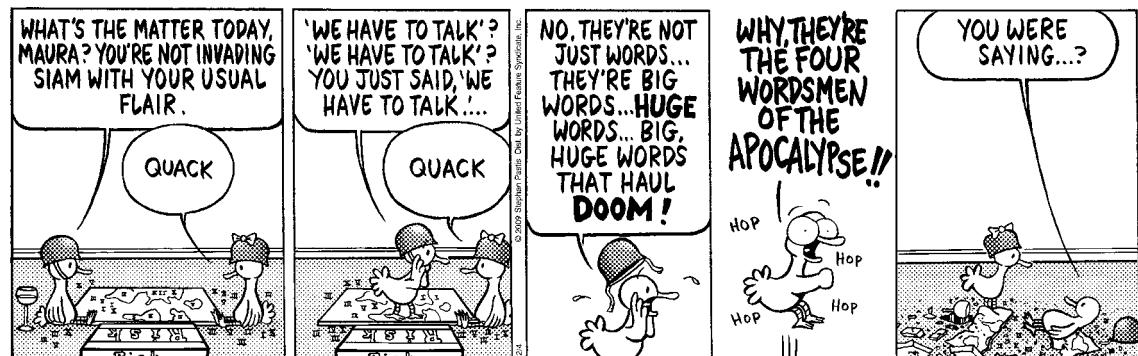
Cornered | Mike Baldwin



Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



## Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** You're feeling unusually optimistic where love and romance are concerned. Even an established relationship can be fiery hot.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** You may have to face a certain obstacle head-on, where usually you would want to come up with a tricky, deceptive strategy.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** You can learn a great deal from someone who has been in your position in the recent past. Don't hesitate to ask questions.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** You are confident that you can handle a developing situation better than those around you — and you'll have the chance to prove it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** You are attracted to those who share your interests, it is true — but you may discover that someone quite different is in your sights.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** What passes for humor on most days isn't likely

to be the source of amusement. Now is the time to take things more seriously than usual.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Your confidence concerning money matters may wax and wane throughout the day as contradictory news comes your way. Be patient.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** You may have received advice yesterday that conflicts directly with the advice you receive today. Consider the source in both cases.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Don't let others sense your insecurities or lack of confidence. Appear ready, willing and able.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Objectivity is the key to sorting out a tangled web at the workplace. Do your best to avoid social situations that confuse the issue.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You may not know what these messages you are receiving mean — but you do know that you must be ready to swing into action.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** If others are waiting for you to act first, they're going to have to wait a long time. Patience is your strong suit these days.

## Letters

## Economic Power at Risk

**BEFORE WE RAIL** at those who are saving more, let's not forget how recently the U.S. savings rate was negative. Consumerism got us through in the past, but this is different; Americans are reacting the same way as in the

early Great Depression. The Bush administration wagered our grandchildren's taxes on a bailout, and the Obama administration is ready to wager our grandchildren's taxes on a spending program. If they succeed, we'll benefit, but our grandchildren will pay; if they fail, the U.S. is done as an economic power.

— DINO DRUDI  
Alexandria, Va.

**WRITE TO EXPRESS:** Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to [inbox@readexpress.com](mailto:inbox@readexpress.com) or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

## Today in History

**1789** Electors choose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

**1861** Delegates from six Southern states meet in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America.

**1974** Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

**2004** The Massachusetts high court declares that gays are entitled to nothing less than marriage and that Vermont-style



Hearst was kidnapped on Feb. 4, 1974.

civil unions will not suffice.

**2008** Harry Richard Landis, one of two known surviving U.S. veterans of World War I, dies near Tampa, Fla., at age 108.

# LOOK out

# People



CHRIS PIZZO/JAP

Donna Martin graduates to CW revival.

## WATTAGE

### Innately Talented Ingenue To Outshine Joe E. Tata, Sun

**TORI SPELLING** is returning to her original ZIP code. The actress best known for her heart-stirring role as Donna on "Beverly Hills 90210," will reprise her role on the CW's revival, "90210." The story arc airs in mid-April. (EXPRESS)

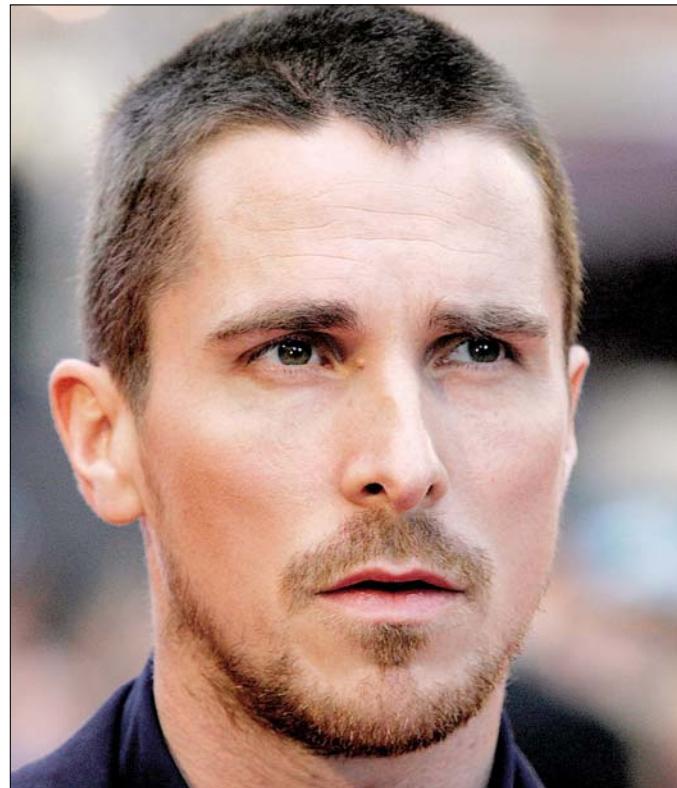
## HANDLES

### Babynamer.com Drops Pilot Inspektor From Last Place

As reported, **ERYKAH BADU** Twittered the birth of her third child on Saturday. In the spirit of multiplatform parenting, Badu and partner, DJ Jay Electronica, have named their little girl Twitty Milk. (EXPRESS)

## expressnightout

Find the latest celebrity news and photo evidence of stars' sordid lives at [WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM](http://WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM).



JOEL RYAN/JAP

## EXPLETIVES

# American Psycho

**CHRISTIAN BAILE** can be heard on TMZ.com in newly surfaced audio delivering a long, profanity-laced verbal thrashing to a cinematographer and anyone who tried to calm him down on the set of the upcoming "Terminator Salvation." In it, the actor rails against cinematographer Shane Hurlbut for apparently walking through Bale's line of sight, considered a film-set foul. (AP)

## 5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Partly sunny, breezy, colder

35°



Partly cloudy, brisk, colder

17°



Mostly sunny, breezy, cold

27° / 25°



Mostly sunny, milder

48° / 34°



Partly sunny, mild

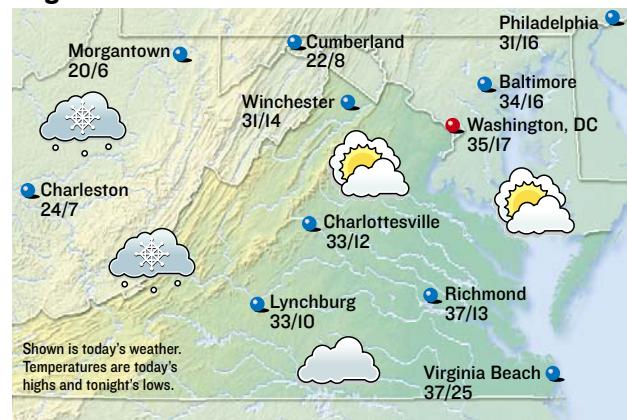
54° / 39°



Partly sunny

53° / 36°

## Regional Weather



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

## Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues.

### Temperature

High	41°
Low	33°
Normal high	44°
Normal low	28°
Average humidity	62%

### Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.03"
Month to date	0.03"
Normal month to date	0.28"
Year to date	2.71"
Last year to date	3.42"
Normal year to date	3.49"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: [washingtonpost.com/weather](http://washingtonpost.com/weather)

## Regional Forecast

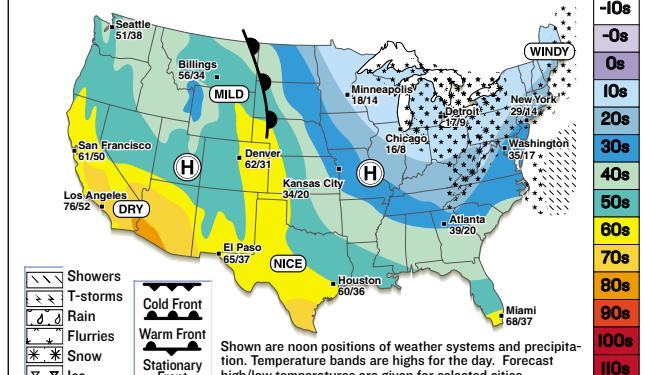
**D.C. Metro:** Today, partly sunny, colder. High 35. Wind north 10-20 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy, brisk, colder. Low 17. Wind northwest 10-20 mph.

## Sun and Moon

Sunrise today ..... 7:12 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 5:33 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 12:00 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 2:41 a.m.

Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 24	Mar 4
Full	Last	New	First

## National Weather for Wednesday, February 4



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

## National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	39/20/s	50/24/s	Amsterdam	39/33/pc	40/38/r
Boston	29/15/sf	23/21/pc	Athens	63/51/sh	62/50/s
Chicago	16/8/pc	36/26/pc	Berlin	41/32/c	43/36/pc
Dallas	52/35/s	64/50/s	Buenos Aires	90/72/s	82/66/t
Denver	62/31/s	64/27/s	Calgary	52/29/pc	45/31/pc
Honolulu	79/67/pc	80/68/c	Dublin	41/36/sn	39/34/c
Los Angeles	76/52/pc	64/50/r	Geneva	46/35/pc	43/36/r
Miami	68/37/pc	63/49/s	Moscow	27/21/sn	30/25/sn
New York City	29/14/sf	25/21/s	Rome	58/47/sh	60/48/r
Orlando	52/28/s	54/33/s	Sydney	81/72/pc	86/72/s
Seattle	51/38/c	49/38/c	Tokyo	48/37/c	52/37/p

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



Wilkinson will expose everything save her roots.

22, as she learns to shop for groceries and plan her June wedding to Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Hank Baskett, 26. Says E! programmer, Lisa Berger: "We are thrilled to be going into these uncharted waters with her." (EXPRESS)

Music," respectively. Dibango's lawyers have asked the courts to block international record labels Sony BMG, EMI and Warner from receiving any income from the sale of these albums until the matter is settled. (EXPRESS)



"And say hello to your mother for me."

# LOOK out

## CROSSWORD | SOLVING FOR HOW LONG?

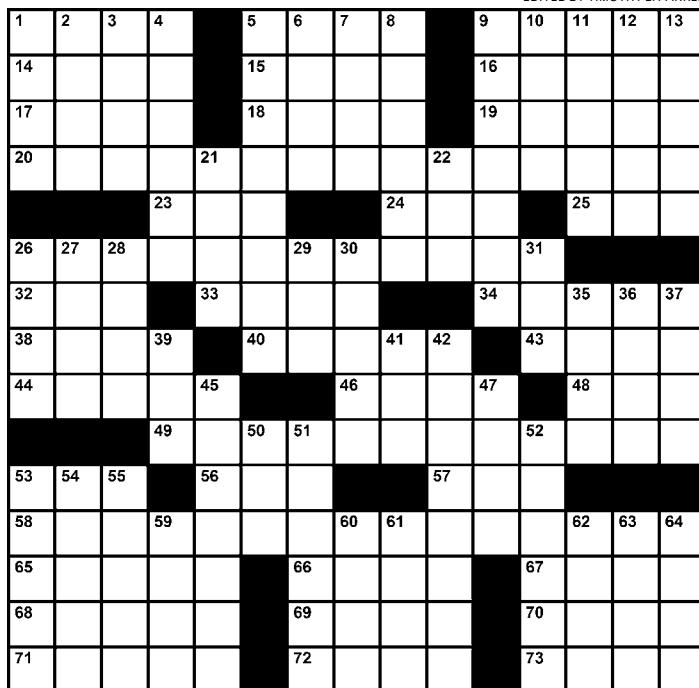
**ACROSS**

1 Unengaged  
5 Kind of witness  
9 Wade noisily  
14 By word of mouth  
15 A lap a minute, e.g.  
16 \_\_\_ Arenas, Chile  
17 Arboreal critter of South America  
18 Dungeons & Dragons beasts  
19 German industrial hub  
20 You may give it to your great-aunt reluctantly  
23 Charged-up atom  
24 Kimono belt  
25 Have a go at  
26 Where some dogs sleep  
32 Baby sitter's nightmare  
33 What a siren does  
34 Deep, unnatural sleep  
38 Meander  
40 Cleo or Frankie  
43 Southwestern monster  
44 All muscle  
46 Depletes  
48 Tennyson's dusk  
49 Conductor of a kind  
53 Network with an eye-con  
56 Baseball's Durocher  
57 Indecisive end  
58 Treaty of Versailles creation

65 Revolutionary path?  
66 Hatchling utterance  
67 Mt. Rushmore locale  
68 Investigate (with "into")  
69 Whip end  
70 Apiary feature  
71 Prancing horse  
72 Foundations may support them  
73 From the top

**DOWN**

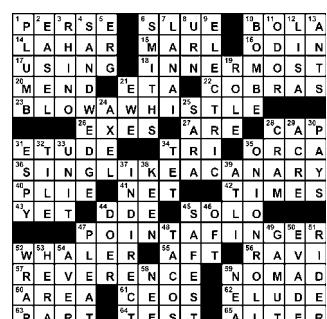
1 Tiniest bit  
2 Cause of an icicle  
3 Recently deceased  
4 Bring forth  
5 Common dosage  
6 Alpine pond  
7 No. on a utility bill  
8 Emulate a farrier  
9 Homo sapiens, for one  
10 Luxuriant  
11 Initial assault  
12 Drove member  
13 Sneeze need  
21 Singer with a gang  
22 Tidal reflux  
26 Certain evergreens  
27 1847 Melville work  
28 Australia's gemstone  
29 Singsong syllable  
30 It could set off alarms  
31 Follow relentlessly  
35 Boardwalk abutter  
36 Morning spread  
37 Money in Johannesburg



39 .001 inches  
41 Palindromic fictional twin  
42 Tombstone inscriptions  
45 Not at full strength  
47 Trivial tizzy  
50 "I hadn't thought of that"  
51 Commotion  
52 Oriental entertainer  
53 Dunderheads  
54 Montmartre

headwear  
55 Weasel family member  
59 Collapse under pressure  
60 Phobia  
61 Spider's home  
62 God who gave up an eye to gain wisdom  
63 Church midsection  
64 Place at an angle

### Yesterday's Solution

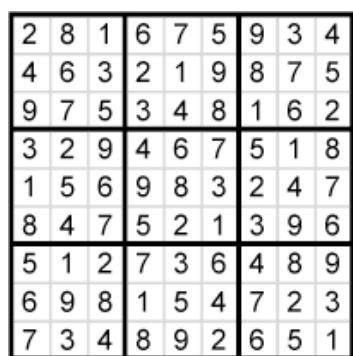


## SUDOKU | MEDIUM

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com) for solution, tips and computer program.

Need more Sudoku? Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

### Yesterday's Solution



## Get Paid to Share Your Opinions!

You are invited to participate in focus groups and get paid to share your opinion. Focus groups are roundtable discussions (usually held in the evenings during the week) where everyday people share their thoughts and opinions. Sign up to participate in these groups by visiting [www.pollingcompany.com](http://www.pollingcompany.com). Click on the link at the bottom of the page, fill out the form and we'll give you a call or send you an e-mail to find out if you qualify. No phone inquiries please.

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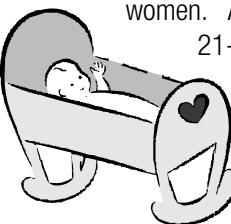
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## Loving Couple Seeks Egg Donor

We are a married couple who are very happy in love and life. Our home is filled with laughter (and one very cute but spoiled dog), but we long for the chaotic joy that only a child can bring. We need an Egg Donor to help. Luckily, we live in the Washington DC area where there are so many talented and dynamic young women. Are you one of them? Our dream Donor is

21-31, Caucasian, intelligent, well-rounded, with an excellent personal and family health history. Northern European ancestry, blue or green eyes, and fair complexion preferred.



### Egg Donor Needed \$8,500 COMPENSATION



We want our donor to have the best care and support and so we have chosen a small, hands-on agency instead of a big clinic. Interested? Please email our attorney at Creative Family Connections: [Donors@creativefamilyconnections.com](mailto:Donors@creativefamilyconnections.com)



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Bethesda, MD

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